

Immaculate Conception Church

21-47 29th Street
Astoria, NY 11105

Phone (718) 728-1613
www.ic-astoria.org

Mission Statement

We, the parish of Immaculate Conception in Astoria, are a diverse family united in our faith in Jesus Christ, and the Church He established. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we seek to build a community reflective of Gospel values rooted in love, faith and prayer. We are committed to living the Gospel by:

- Nourishing the spiritual lives of one another;
- Serving those in need; and
- Welcoming all the children of God.

Following the example of Mary, our patroness, we hope to grow in peace and unity, strengthen the bonds which unite us and proclaim the kingdom of God in all that we do.



*Immaculate
Conception*

ANNUAL PASTORAL & FINANCIAL REPORT

2013 - 2014



**A LETTER
FROM YOUR PASTOR**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This past year was a momentous one for me as I began my sabbatical with a 30 day silent retreat in Manresa, Spain right over the Cave where St. Ignatius wrote the book that changed the world: "The Spiritual Exercises." The retreat was a harrowing entrance into the deepest reaches of my soul where the Evil One seeks to make his mark. By entering this desert, I met this demon like Christ did in His desert experience and realized that I need not fear. Evil has been defeated and I choose to enter the fray on the side of Christ. I learned a great deal about myself and my relationship to the Lord. St. Ignatius knew what he was doing in creating the Spiritual Exercises! As I left Manresa I felt newly put together. There was a sense of peace in my heart which has still not left me. I understand the Lord's words that the peace He gives, the world cannot take away.

Leaving Manresa, I travelled to the Holy Land starting my visit at Tantur, Israel. Modern Israel is a thriving, tense and deeply religious place. Our journey included a visit to Jordan and the desert where the Hebrews wandered before they entered the Promised Land was unforgettable. We were able to actually wade in the Jordan and renew our Baptismal Vows.

When I finally got to Rome I felt like I was coming home, not just because I was born in Italy, but because I am, down to my bones, a son of the Church. I love being Catholic and being part of 2,000 years of Spiritual, Intellectual and Cultural tradition.

My sabbatical was full of experiences and I have definitely experienced the truth of the words "absence makes the heart grow fonder." I missed all of you very much. But at the same time this Sabbatical proved to be very rich and powerful in my life.

In Christ,
Monsignor Ferrarese

CONGRATULATIONS TO MONSIGNOR FERRARESE

The Parish of Immaculate Conception is pleased & honored on the reassignment of

Monsignor Fernando Ferrarese

to this parish for another six years by Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio

**2013-2014 PARISH FINANCES
EXPENSES (continued)**

Heat, Light & Power

Heating	87,547
Electric/Water	44,275
Total Heat, Light & Power	\$131,822

Maintenance & Repairs

Contracted Maintenance	46,013
Ordinary Repairs (Church/Rectory/Others)	45,356
Major Repairs & Renovations - Church	35,000
Major Repairs & Renovation - Rectory	-0-
Major Repairs & Renovation- Other (Convent, School, etc.)	5,000
Total Maintenance/Repairs	\$131,369

Fees

Accountant Fees	13,730
Professional Fees	7,219
Other Miscellaneous Fees	4,049
Total Fees	\$24,998

Community

Religious Education	1,361
Youth	10,367
Community Programs	23,597
Miscellaneous Programs	1,500
Total Community	\$36,825

Donations to Other Organizations

Donations to Charities	47,895
Diocesan Assessment	52,400
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Diocesan School Fund	10,000
Total Donations to Other Organizations	\$110,295

Total Expenses	\$1,216,186
Shortfall to Parish	(\$151,118)

YEAR IN REVIEW (continued)

School Honorable Mentions

- 3 Major Fundraisers generated a \$40,000 profit.
- Super Kids Reading Program Introduced to Kindergarten, First and Second Grade Students
- Students in grades four, six and eight participated in the Stages on the Sound Performing Arts Program
- Students in all grades participated in service projects that raised funds for several charities. Our 8th graders cleaned Lawrence Cemetery in the fall & planted in the spring

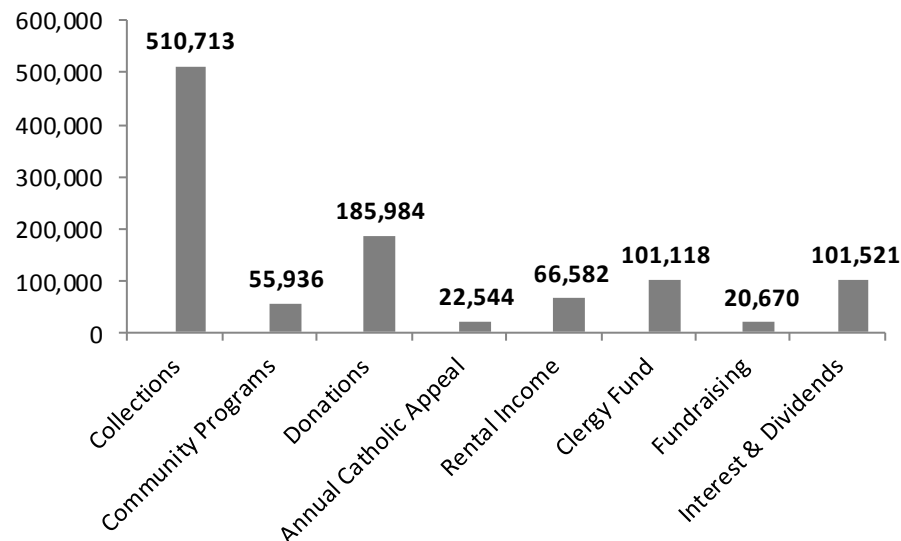
Capital Improvements

- Security Camera System expanded to now include inside our School property
- Railings installed on the entrances to the Rectory and Convent

Selection of Yearly Events

- September Parish Retreat
- Lessons and Carols
- 3 Day Lenten Mission - English/Spanish
- Charisms of Holy Spirit Workshop
- Scriptures & Bible Study Workshops
- El dia De la Hispanidad (Hispanic Heritage Month)
- Spiritual Development for Single Women Workshop
- God the Father Novena
- Virtus training and Lures Child Protection
- Anointing of the Sick in Oct & Feb
- Food & Clothing Drives & Food Pantry
- Enrollment ceremonies for Communion and Confirmation students

2013-2014 PARISH FINANCES - INCOME



2013-2014 PARISH FINANCES INCOME (continued)

Collections

Sunday	460,513
Christmas & Easter	25,734
All Other	24,466

Total Collections

\$510,713

Community Programs

Religious Education	14,106
Youth Program/Activity	10,443
Community/Adult Program	31,387

Total Community Programs

\$55,936

Donations

Candles	76,036
Poor Boxes	14,334
Other Donations	57,262
Other Extraordinary Income	38,352

Total Donations

\$185,984

Annual Catholic Appeal - Parish

\$22,544

Rental Income

Income from Rented Property	27,588
Rent Income—Clergy/Religious	38,994

Total Rental Income

\$66,582

Clergy Fund (Funerals/Weddings etc.)

\$101,118

Fundraising (Societies Contributions)

\$20,670

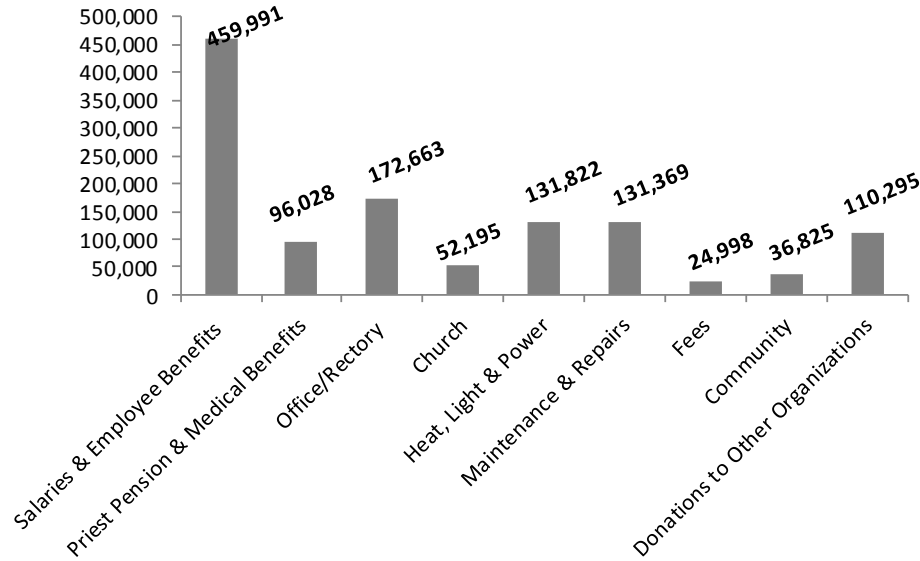
Interest & Dividends

\$101,521

TOTAL INCOME

\$1,065,068

2013-2014 PARISH FINANCES - EXPENSES



Salaries & Employee Benefits

Salaries	402,960
Benefits	57,031
Total Salaries & Employee Benefits	\$459,991

Priest Pension & Medical Benefits \$96,028

Office/Rectory

Household Expenses	53,561
Insurance	52,384
Printing	21,942
Communications	5,688
Furniture & Fixtures	27,038
Misc. Expenses	12,050
Total Office/Rectory	\$172,663

Church

Altar Supplies	21,214
Choir Books/Pamphlets /Newspapers	18,513
Tablet Expense	12,468
Total Church	\$52,195

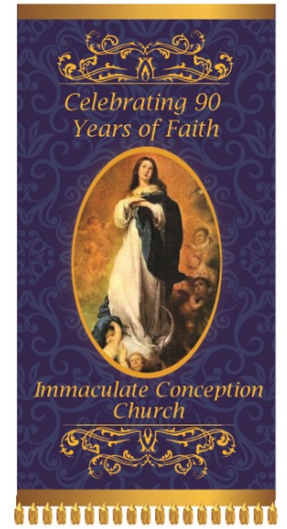
CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF FAITH!

The community of Immaculate Conception Church proudly celebrates 90 years of living the Catholic faith in Astoria. Our thriving, diverse congregation, continues to flourish with the faith, pageantry and traditions first fostered by our founder, Fr. Michael D. Lopez. To honor our history of faith and service, there are three major events marking this great anniversary:

First Celebratory Mass: Saturday, October 4 at 5 p.m. - Celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Paul Sanchez

Second Celebratory Mass: Sunday, December 7 at 5 p.m. - Celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Raymond Chappetto

Grand Gala Reception at Russo's on the Bay: Sunday, January 18, 2015 at 6 p.m.



YEAR IN REVIEW

Sacramental Statistics

- Baptisms—98
- First Communions—89
- Confirmations—80
- Weddings—22
- Funerals—141

Ministerial Statistics

- CCD Registrations—273
- School Enrollments—275
- Sick Calls—31
- Parishioners in Nursing Homes—19
- Homebound Parishioners—20
- Registered Families—1,496

Special Occasions

- Ordination of Francisco Hernandez on June 21 to the diaconate and the very first time an ordination was held at Immaculate Conception Church.
- Ordination of Jason Espinal on June 28 to the priesthood!

New Ministries

- Spanish Rites of Christian Initiation (RCIA)

Important Events

- Lives of the Saints Film Festival
- Catholicism & Orthodoxy Lecture
- Pentecost Vigil
- Baptism Celebration