



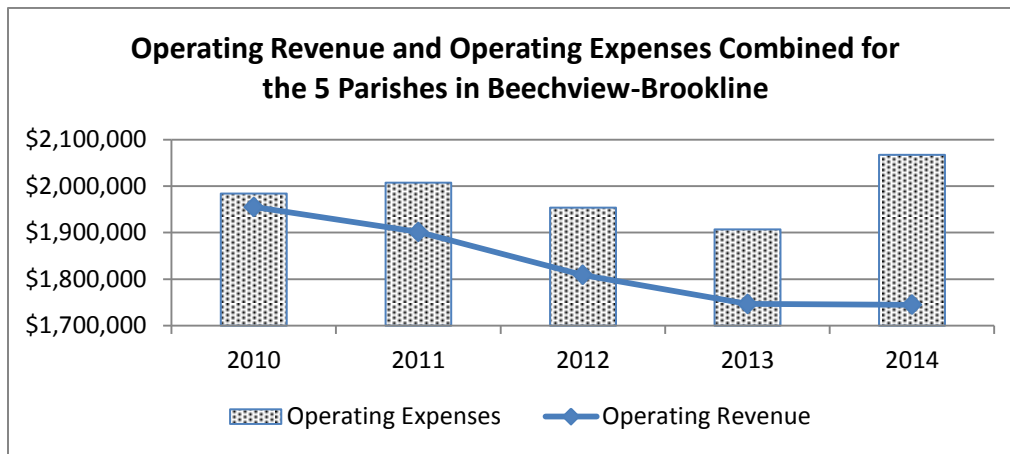
**UPDATE ON  
Beechview–Brookline Catholic Collaborative  
June 27/28, 2015**

The Planning Team, comprised of members of the parish pastoral and finance councils from the parishes of **Saint Catherine of Siena, Our Lady of Loreto, Saint Pamphilus, Saint Pius X** and **Resurrection**, and working with our pastors, Fathers Anania, Bachner and Mitolo, and our regional vicar, Father Robert Guay, previously provided parishioners with some of the insights the team has learned in studying the population of the five parishes.

In this bulletin insert, the 2<sup>nd</sup> in a series (the next one will be in August), the Team wants to offer a summary of the Team’s findings to date after careful review of the *finances* of the five parishes. At the bottom of this sheet, we encourage your feedback on this interim report.

Kindly return the tear off at the bottom of the page *no later than Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>* by mailing it to the parish, dropping it off at the parish office, or placing it in the collection basket.

1. On average, offertory collections are down in all five parishes. Offertory is the normal way parishes are funded. With collections on the decline, operations of our parishes are threatened.
2. To be sustainable, annual increases in operating revenue need to keep pace with the annual increases in operating expenses.



- O V E R -



1. What is unclear to you in the six statements in this insert?

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2. What questions do the six statements in this insert raise for you?

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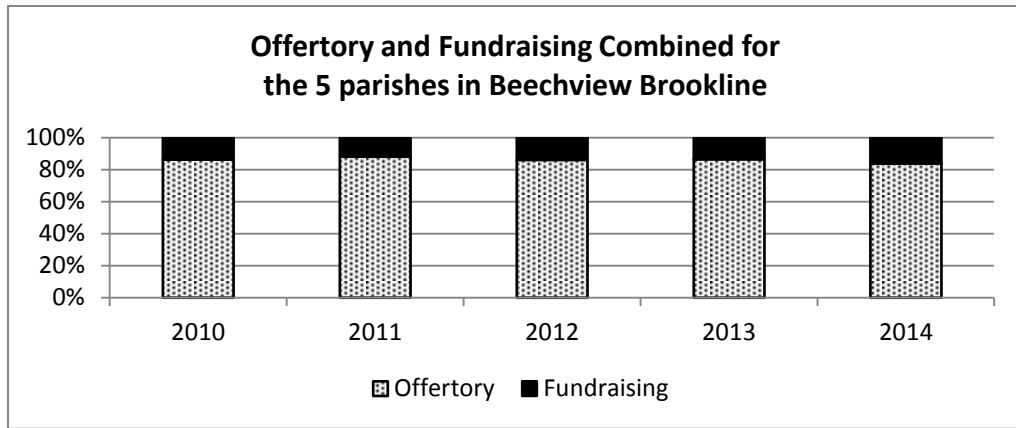


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- 3. Fundraising is important because it supplements the normal stream of parish revenue, namely, the weekly offertory collection. However, fundraising is risky. Parishes should not depend on fundraising for everyday expenses as fundraisers rely on variables that are more volatile than offertory collections such as recruiting volunteers, the weather for outdoor fundraisers, etc. Fundraising is therefore not a sustainable financial strategy.



- 4. Consideration should be given to sharing fundraising which both helps people among the five parishes feel connected and decreases the risks associated with fundraising.
- 5. The cost of employment benefits for parish staff (e.g., medical insurance) is increasing.
- 6. Operating expenses need, where possible, to be consolidated among the five parishes in Beechview–Brookline.
  - a. Explore opportunity for sharing personnel, programs and facilities, in addition to the sharing that is already occurring (i.e., the school, CCD, RCIA).
  - b. Explore the coordinated use of skilled committed volunteers where appropriate.
  - c. Consider the number of buildings needed to provide core pastoral services for the ministries of Word, Worship and Service.



3. What does the information in this bulletin insert suggest to you about the future of our parishes?

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Your parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Your name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_