

# The Church of the Gesu

## 2015 Annual Pledge Appeal

### *“Being and Growing as Disciples”*

**You might be wondering.....**

**(1) What is the 2015 Annual Pledge Appeal?**

It is the annual renewal of your stewardship commitment of treasure to Gesu Parish for 2015.

**(2) What other commitments will we be asked to prayerfully consider making?**

The commitments will be:

- Renewal of parish membership
- Praying for God’s blessings on Gesu’s ministry
- Faithfulness in Mass attendance
- An increased financial commitment for 2015

**(3) What are we asking of our parishioners?**

This year, we are encouraging our parish households to consider increasing their pledge in a meaningful way. We are asking each parishioner to grow in their service to Jesus by knowing the joy of a generous heart. If you are able to increase your present pledge by \$15/month, your additional gift will help to ensure that all the ministries at Gesu will continue to make a difference in the lives of those we serve. Can you imagine how much we as a parish could accomplish if everyone increased their pledge in a significant way!

However God is calling you to grow as a disciple you can be assured of God’s never ending love and gratitude for your act of selflessness. God asks us to love Him above all others and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Your financial pledge is a tangible example of your interior response to God’s call for each of us to live a life rooted in gratitude and service to one another.

**(4) What will your pledge support in 2015?**

It will support the diverse ministries of Gesu which help to connect parishioners to their baptismal call.

- **Liturgy and Music** – Our priority is to provide meaningful liturgies with inspirational music to help our parishioners pray and grow in love with God. In addition to our Sunday and weekday Masses, we celebrate 50-60 weddings and about 30 funerals each year. We provide for anointing of the sick and once a month we host a concert which showcases spiritual and classical organ music.
- **Adult Formation** – Each year our parish offers a wide range of spiritual formation activities that promote various aspects of Ignatian Spirituality. Some of these programs include the Advent Day of Reflection, the weekend Lenten retreat, the Fourth Sunday Offerings series, the Gathering Points series and Spiritual Direction.
- **Child and Family Formation** – Over 85 Christian Formation students, with the help of volunteer catechists, learn to live and share the Gospel of the Lord. Families learn the beauties of our faith and are guided in developing a lifelong relationship with Christ. Each year, students prepare for and receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist.
- **Youth Formation** – For the past 9 years teens from our parish Confirmation program have participated in the archdiocesan sponsored programs, Global Youth in Mission, which is an international immersion experience as well as Reach Out-Reach In, program. Parish scholarship assistance has aided these teens in raising the funds necessary for these immersion ministries.
- **Human Concerns** – a variety of ministries including: Respect Life, parish Health Ministry, Twinning with Sts. Simon and Jude in Haiti, Justice Education and Social Action, Outreach and many forms of Direct Service. Examples include: providing Sunday Breakfast Bags to those in need; offering 4 Ignatian Spirituality Project retreats for men and women who are homeless and in recovery; ensuring 260 meals each month for neighborhood guests; highlighting 11 annual Peacemaker Awards for Catholic youth; donating baby items to

the Women's Care Center in Milwaukee; participating in MICAH, Common Ground and Central City Churches; and fostering a 12 year relationship with Sts. Simon and Jude Parish in Haiti.

- **Stewardship** – Aside from your financial support, we help to foster a life style that encourages one another to live out their baptismal call by serving one another in love and gratitude.
- **Parish Life** – this commission plans, promotes and develops activities that bring parishioners and guests of Gesu together for fellowship and the celebration of special parish life events to build a deeper sense of community among the members of the Body of Christ.
- **Operating Needs** – We continue to hold the line on expenses as best we can but health insurance, compensation, utilities and maintenance costs continue to increase, as you most likely have experienced too. See the chart below for a comparison of last year's Budget and Actuals with this year's Budget.

### Church of the Gesu Financial Summary

	Budget	Actual	Budget
Revenues	FY2013-14	FY2013-14	FY2014-15
Weekly Envelopes	\$ 546,000	\$ 508,205	\$ 546,000
Holidays/Holy Days	\$ 22,000	\$ 31,726	\$ 28,000
Offertory	\$ 176,000	\$ 167,350	\$ 170,400
Daily	\$ 24,300	\$ 25,683	\$ 24,300
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 768,300</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 732,964</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 768,700</u></b>
Ministerial Income	\$ 72,986	\$ 85,760	\$ 107,480
Other Administrative	\$ 57,504	\$ 48,408	\$ 57,444
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b><u>\$ 898,790</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 867,132</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 933,624</u></b>
Expenses			
Ministerial	\$ 86,685	\$ 87,483	\$ 108,302
Maintenance	\$ 173,937	\$ 156,621	\$ 119,032
Salaries/Benefits	\$ 771,839	\$ 752,883	\$ 852,113 *
Other Administrative	\$ 122,659	\$ 80,464	\$ 173,182
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,155,120</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,077,451</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,252,629</u></b>
<b>Operating Gain/(Loss)</b>	<b><u>\$ (256,330)</u></b>	<b><u>\$ (210,319)</u></b>	<b><u>\$ (319,005)</u></b>

\* This projected budget shortfall for Fiscal Year 14-15 in part reflects Gesu's objective to be in-line with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's standards for clergy and lay staff compensation guidelines.