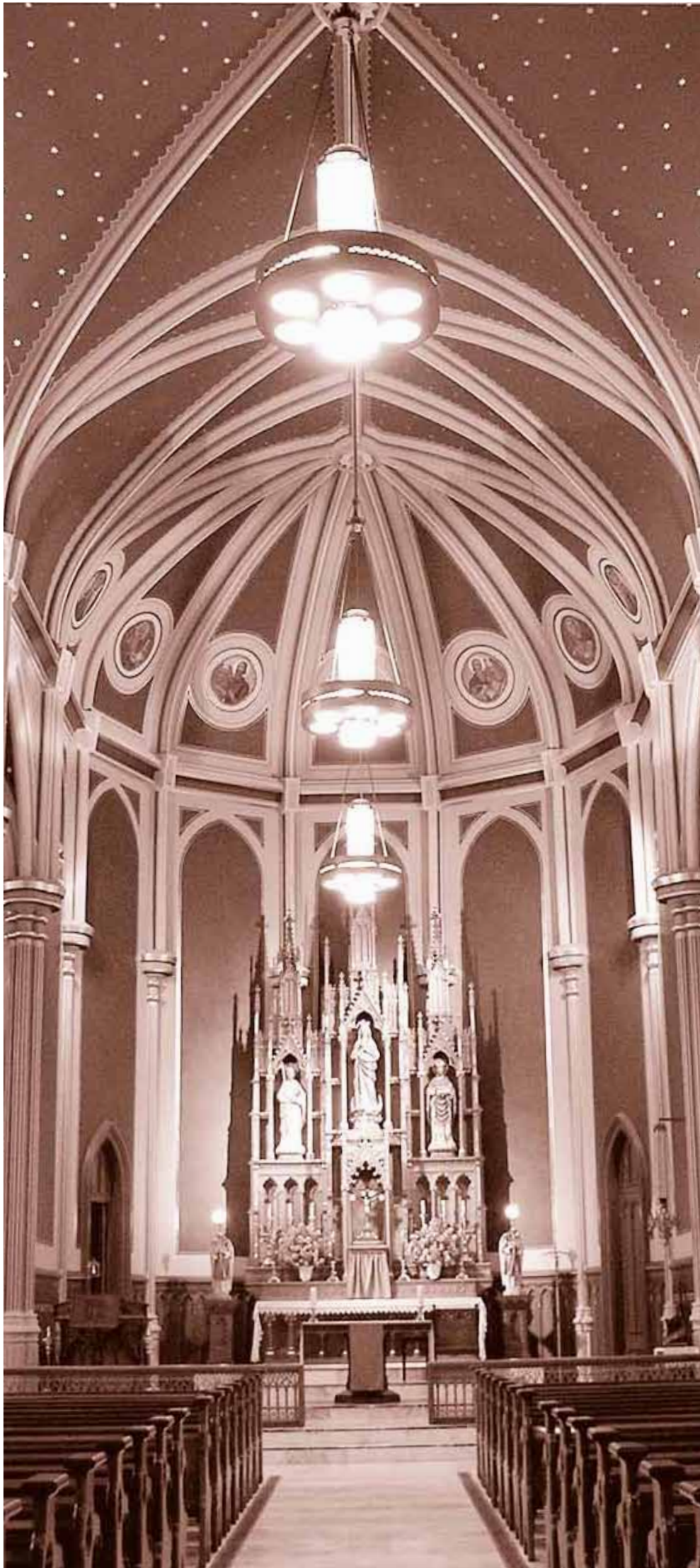


Archdiocese of Seattle 2009–2010 ANNUAL REPORT



My dear friends in Christ,

God bestows blessings on us in abundance and we, in turn, owe God our abundant thanks.

Although my installation as Archbishop of Seattle occurred only a few months ago, the many gifts that God has bestowed on this local Church have already become strikingly apparent to me. Over the past three months, I also have witnessed the open-handed generosity of our clergy, religious and lay people, and I have been humbled by their stewardship of all God has shared with them.

In fact, I grow in gratitude each day as I meet the people of our Archdiocese and discover their unique gifts and how they place them at the service of the Lord. In the past year, for instance, the gifts of our people and their gratitude to God are evident in the financial support given to local parishes, which increased despite current economic challenges. God's abundance and the gratitude of his people are also evident in the overwhelming response to the Annual Catholic Appeal, which supports the many ministries and activities of the Church in Western Washington. The generous outpouring of time and talent in this archdiocese similarly reflects God's plentiful blessings and your grateful response.

One of the many groups I have had the pleasure of meeting in my brief time here has been the Archdiocesan Finance Council. During our meetings I have been impressed with their commitment to the stewardship of the Church's resources. Like so many other individuals and groups working in parishes and ministries, they provided good counsel and faithful service to Archbishop Brunett, who in turn carried forward the longstanding tradition of financial accountability that has become a hallmark of the Archdiocese of Seattle. It is a tradition I intend to honor as archbishop, and this annual report reflects not only a continuing commitment to transparency, but also to responsible management of financial resources given in faith, hope and love.

As in every particular church in every age, we find ourselves confronted by significant challenges and, as disciples, we are called to respond. For this reason, we place our trust in God as we recommit ourselves anew to addressing every instance of clergy sexual abuse with compassion for victims and an uncompromising commitment to the protection of children and young people in our care.

As this 2009-2010 financial report indicates, the archdiocese is on a sound financial footing. The information in these pages reflects gratitude for God's many gifts. As Archbishop, I am grateful to Pope Benedict XVI for giving me the opportunity to serve as pastor of the Archdiocese of Seattle, and I submit this annual report for your consideration with sincere thanks to all for their faithful support.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ *Peter Sartain*

Archbishop Peter Sartain