

Help Support Our St. Cecilia Family

How Your Contributions Help Support Our

Revenues (as of 5/22/17)

Parish Picnic



Confirmation 2017



June 30, 2016
Actual
\$1,281,990



May 2016 YTD
Actual
\$1,196,631



May 2017
YTD Goal
\$1,233,719



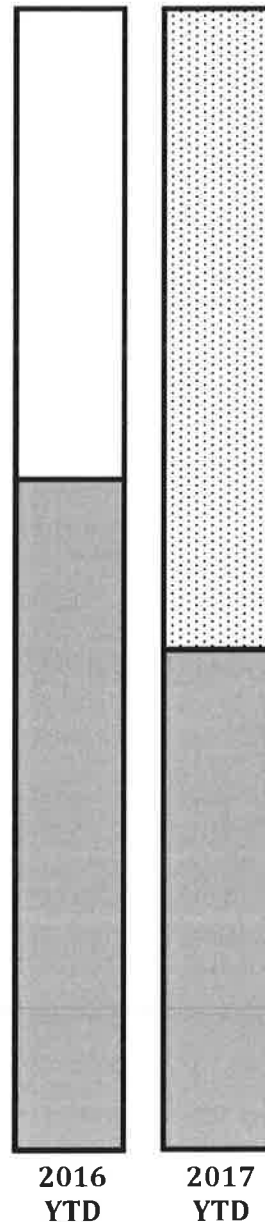
YTD May 21
\$1,109,060



YTD May 14
\$1,095,027



YTD May 7
\$1,074,232



Help Us Close the GAP!

Right now we are still short to meet our obligations. To meet our income goal for this year, would you consider contributing a bit extra each week? We have 1,500 households. If each household could give an additional \$5 per week for the next 3 months, we could close the GAP. Please prayerfully consider how you can support our efforts to spread the Gospel. Thank you for your efforts and sacrifices.

God Bless You!



James E. Graham
Author, *South Hill Rascals*

Meet Jim Graham, author of *South Hill Rascals*.

Many Christians can identify unique experiences or events in their lives where they are inspired by life circumstances. In these cases you suddenly see what a problem or issue is. More important you see how to solve it. You find yourself knowing things, saying things and doing things that you have not planned. This has happened to four generations of the Dubuque Graham family all of their lifetimes. It happened to me at Saint Columbkille's, grade school, in high school, at Loras Academy, in the Army, at Loras College all in Dubuque, Iowa and at Saint Cecilia's Catholic Church in Ames, Iowa. It happened even more often when I was an Assistant Attorney General and when I was an Economic Development-Eminent Domain Attorney and continuing legal education author and teacher.

All of this time I have been shown and made able to see more than what I alone was able to see and know. This unplanned and unknown insight always came to me in a spontaneous and extremely effective way. I believe, and always have believed, that at these times the Holy Spirit takes over and works on us to supplement our insight. Now that I am older and wiser I know that the Spirit has always helped me to not only identify unknown problems but also to clearly and timely find their solution.

Using the chapter by chapter actual names, places and circumstances, keeps the book both real and more fun. At these moments I have often experienced a new qualitative understanding and reverence for the help that the Spirit has provided. These gifted ideas were neither typical, identified, nor planned as a solution to the original problem. As I grew up I learned to spontaneously thank the Lord for helping me serve Him through the clearer understanding, more just answer or solution.

In all of these activities, the experience or new insight happened by itself. Often the experience was over before I was fully aware that it happened. In every case I became reverent and deeply conscious of the Spirit's work in my world. Don't get me wrong, these experiences have not just strengthened me to continue to serve the Lord. They also do not, and never have, prevented me from celebrating a victory over arrogance, greed or misguided power. I guess that is the IRISH in me and the whole Graham family.

The Random House Dictionary of the English Language defines NAMESAKE as a person named after another. In looking through my father's Dubuque Iowa, Columbia College memorabilia, it is very clear that my father Joseph Gill Graham, and the Right Reverend Monsignor Emmett Kelly were very good friends for years before Columbia College became Loras College. My father sang in Father Kelly's All-Male Columbia College choir and they often fished, played cards and horseshoes together at Grandpa Edward Graham's Fentress Lake cottage south of East Dubuque Illinois. Tis no wonder that my middle name "Emmett" came from Msgr Kelly.

In 1956, when I was a Senior at what was then Loras Academy Msgr. Kelly died. A month before Msgr. Kelly died, Dad and I drove to New Hampton Iowa where Msgr. Kelly was Pastor and Dean of St. Joseph Church. Our visit lasted for an hour before Msgr. Kelly seemed to get tired and we shook his hand and left. All through the conversation Msgr. Kelly would occasionally stop and look at me. Then one time he asked me: "James Emmett, I need you to make a promise to me." I told Msgr. Kelly I would but he never told me what he wanted me to promise him. The second time he told this to me he stopped for a moment and told

me he wanted me to promise that I would do all I could to make the world I was living in a better place. I held his hand in mine and told him that I would do my very best. Then he and Dad went back to sharing memories of all the wonderful times they had had together.

When our visit was over and Dad and I were leaving the room Msgr. Kelly said to me: "Jimmy My Boy, I'll see what I can do to help you." Fr. Kelly knew that when a Graham makes a promise he keeps it. What this Graham did not know was how Father Kelly would keep his promise to me. When it happened I KNEW! Everyone who reads Chapter 11, IT IS GOOD TO ENJOY YOUR WORK about the City of Johnston's highway improvement project will know too. You will be surprised, as I was.

As I wrote this book I realized that initially some of the story you will believe and some you may not. I may be able to explain what really happened in a better way, but I am really trying to write the story exactly the way it happened. Everyone who reads **SOUTH HILL RASCALS** can make up their own minds if this was the wonderful life that I think it was. What is more important for the reader to follow is how the Spirit has worked in my life to help me to become WHO and to do WHAT he intended me to do. The reader needs to listen to the stories as the book tells them to you. In those cases where you have a Question or just don't believe what you are reading, ask yourself what really happened. Your guess may or may not be true. Wait until the end of the book before you make up your mind. I would never tell a story that was not completely, absolutely and totally true- or maybe just once in a while. You decide as you read. Once you have read the **RASCALS** you will know.

Don't get me wrong, I wrote the book because it was fun. The other reason I wrote it is to help inspire the fourth and the next generations of Grahams and all who have or will graduate from Loras College to trust in their Catholic education. With the help of the SPIRIT, we all will be able to see and do what needs to be done to make our world a better place. Our daily effort is not intended to be just a self-conscious striving to fill ourselves with important Christian values. It is more fun to ask and trust the Spirit to show us how to make our world a better place. Knowing that God's Spirit is joined to ours and that he will never abandon us is our real source of knowledge and strength.

Growing up in Dubuque Iowa on the Mississippi River, on Grandpa Graham's farm, on South Hill Street and at Fentress Lake helped to make my brother Thomas Edward Graham and I become the persons who God intended us to be. "Help me to do my best Lord." needs to be everyone's continuing daily prayer. The other part of all of this is KNOWING that the Spirit is with us is really all that IS necessary for us to actually make the world that we live in a better place.

Father Emmett Kelly was right! I often thank him for asking me to make this promise. I hope the **SOUTH HILL RASCALS** helps everyone who reads it to do the same. The book is available through: AMAZON, iTunes, Barnes&noble, Google play and KoBo

