



Catholic Church of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Celebrating Our 50th Anniversary • 1960 - 2010

October 2009

Dear Members of Most Blessed Sacrament,

We have been spending much time recently talking about Christian stewardship and discipleship. Why? Because discipleship and stewardship are integral parts of our parish life and the Christian calling; they recognize that everything we have and are comes from God.

Understanding this call to living as disciples and good stewards has even greater meaning for you and I during these challenging economic times. The sacred Scriptures tells us that it was during times of scarcity that God's testing was being placed before people to see if they would trust His promise. In Exodus the Hebrew children believe that they would die from the lack of food and water - God showed them that He was there to feed them what they would need. In 1 Samuel the widow told the prophet Elijah that she would not be able to help because she had no flour - Elijah demonstrated that God would take care of her family and himself. And when the Apostles thought that a hungry crowd would not be able to eat from what little they had, Jesus took five loaves of bread and two fish and satisfied over 5000 people with leftovers to spare. In the Gospel story of the rich young man who asked Jesus what must he do to have eternal life, the response our Lord gave him was to let go of his fears and follow him completely. Unfortunately, the young man let his fear control him instead of his faith.

As Christians we read in the Bible about using our financial gifts to glorify God's name. The Bible actually suggests that we give God a tithe of our gifts - a full 10% of our annual income. Tithing is the ultimate action of trust in God's plan. We actually release our fear of not having enough and totally embrace what God has promised will happen if we do what the Lord wants. To live as a tithing Christian takes work, prayer, and constant nourishment by the Holy Spirit; but like all good gifts from God when one tithes because of faith the rewards are tremendous and powerful. For 2010 I challenge you to be a better disciple while using your gift of treasure to this parish.

Our parish offertory goal this fiscal year is \$278,000.00. The 2010 goal for our parish to the Archbishop's Annual is \$22,000.00 out of a total Archdiocesan goal of \$7,000,000.00. I ask that you prayerfully consider what a difference you can make as you reflect upon the concept of true stewardship in your life. Remember: "*Christ asks you to be an essential piece.*"

Please understand that you pledge to the Annual Appeal is considered only for the 2009 calendar year. If you choose, you may start your donations in 2009, however, reminders will not be sent until January 2010.

Enclosed with this letter is a parish offertory commitment card. Please prayerfully consider a generous pledge to both the parish offertory and the Annual Appeal. Archbishop Gregory will send you a pledge card for the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. Complete each pledge card and either mail them (please be sure to use the correct envelope) or bring them to church with you on Treasure Commitment Sunday, October 25, 2009.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Bruce W. Wilkinson
Pastor