

The Year of Faith – St. Joseph Parish Annual Stewardship Drive

Dear Fellow Parishioner,

Pope Benedict has declared 2012-2013, the Year of Faith. The year will begin on October 11, the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. To ready ourselves for this yearlong initiative, it is important that we take time to reflect and rediscover what faith means. Faith is not just a personal declaration - it needs to be “professed, celebrated, lived and prayed.” In his letter *Porta Fidei* (Door of Faith), Pope Benedict states, “Faith without charity bears no fruit, while charity without faith would be a sentiment constantly at the mercy of doubt.”

As people of faith we realize that all we are and all we have comes from God. In thanksgiving for the blessings we have received, we are to give back a proportion of these gifts, in a spirit of generosity – by sharing of our time, talent and treasure.

How can we as parish members be good stewards of our **time**? As Christian stewards, we can begin with prayer. It is the way we ensure that we have God as the center of our lives. Prayer can be individual and communal. It nurtures our faith and draws us out of ourselves. Our lives can be a prayer too – if offered in the proper spirit. So the time that one gives to the parish community – cooking meals, working at the summer picnic, serving on a committee - becomes a gift of stewardship and an act of faith.

How can we be stewards of our **talents**? Regardless of age, income or education, each of us has some talent we can use to help our fellow human beings. Talents (abilities) are not something we should be shy about. They were given to us by God to be shared. There are many needs. So the talents that we share – singing in a choir, teaching CCD, serving at Mass – becomes a gift of stewardship and an act of faith.

How can we be stewards of our **treasure**? As Christians, we are called to give back to God the **FIRST** fruits of our treasure – not the leftovers - meaning giving from the top of every dollar earned or received. The biblical norm is called a tithe and we are to give it back in gratitude. So the money that we give – in our weekly offerings, to the Diocesan Appeal, or to the Parish Endowment – becomes a gift of stewardship and an act of faith.

This year, we are requesting that each family from our parish fill out a *Time, Talent & Treasure Report* and return it by Stewardship Sunday, March 24-25. Please consider sharing your time and talent by volunteering for a parish ministry or event. In addition, we ask that you consider your financial contribution to the parish. St. Joseph Parish needs **YOU**, with the unique gifts God has bestowed upon you. When we collectively profess, celebrate, live and pray our faith, the walls and halls of St. Joseph Parish will be filled with joy!

In faith,

The Stewardship Committee

**SAINT JOSEPH PARISH
TIME, TALENT & TREASURE
STEWARDS OFFER SERVICE
(S.O.S.)**

COUNCILS/COMMITTEES

- C-1 Pastoral Council Member
- C-2 Finance Council Member
- C-3 Education Committee Member
- C-4 Family Life Committee Member
- C-5 Social Concerns Committee Member
- C-6 Sacred Worship Committee Member
- C-7 Buildings and Grounds Committee Member
- C-8 Stewardship Committee Member

EDUCATION AND FORMATION

General

- E-1 Parish Library Helper
- E-2 Religious Education Office Helper - daytimes
- E-3 Computer Technology/ Programmer Helper
- E-4 Babysitter at Church - Special occasions
- E-5 Calligrapher

Wednesday Evening Programs

August-May ONLY

- E-6 C.C.D. (grades 1-6) Catechist
- E-7 C.C.D. Catechist Aide
- E-10 C.C.D. Prayer Checker
- E-11 T.Y.M.E. Catechists & Aids (grades 7-8)
- E-12 High School Catechists & Aids (grades 9-12)
- E-13 Confirmation Aids

Sacraments

- E-14 First Reconciliation Retreat Helper
- E-15 Wood Scroller/Ornament Painter
- E-16 First Communion Retreat Helper
- E-17 Quilter
- E-18 Confirmation Retreat Helper

Adult

- E-19 R.C.I.A. Team

Other

- E-23 Summer Bible Camp Team

FAMILY LIFE

- F-1 Welcoming Team Member
- F-2 FOCCUS
- F-4 Summer Gatherings Helper
- F-5 Shawl Ministry Member

SOCIAL CONCERNS

- J-1 Advent/Lent Project

SACRED WORSHIP

- W-1 Instrumentalist: List instrument
- W-2 Decorating Committee
- W-3 Cantor-Song Leader
- W-4 Choir Member - Traditional
- W-5 Choir Member - Folk
- W-6 Choir Member - Family
- W-7 Choir Member - Funeral
- W-8 Minister of Communion
- W-9 Reader
- W-10 Hospitality Minister
- W-11 Weekend Server
- W-12 Adult Server - Weekday, Weekend or Funeral
- W-13 Children's Liturgy of the Word Leaders & Aids 10:30 Liturgy
- W-14 Wee Worship Too (preschool) Leaders & Aids 10:30 Liturgy
- W-15 Eucharist Minister to the Homebound

PASTORAL CARE

- W-16 Befriender Ministry
- W-17 Shawl Ministry

PARISH TASKS/ORGANIZATIONS

- P-1 Mailings - daytime
- P-2 Bulletin Folding - daytime
- P-3 Computer Operator - daytime
- P-4 Money Counters
- P-5 Holy Name Society (Men)
- P-6 Saint Anne's Society-PCCW (Women)
- P-7 Knights of Columbus
- P-8 Website Committee
- P-9 Picnic Committee
- P-10 Fund Raising Projects
- P-11 Selling Gift Cards

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

- B-1 Maintenance Projects: List Skill

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE REPORT

FAMILY NAME: _____ **Email Address:** _____

Envelope #: _____

List the **TIME & TALENT** interest for each member from Time & Talent Sheet. After each name, please use the letter and number listed before each activity(ies) from Stewards Offer Service (S.O.S) sheet such as F-1 (for Welcoming Committee) Activity Interested In

Head(s) of household: _____

Children: _____

Address: _____

City & State & Zip Code: _____

Home/Land Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

What is the best way and time to reach you?

**GIFT OF FAITH
2012 SHARING OF TREASURE**

I/We pledge to:

- Increase weekly/monthly giving by \$_____
- Contribute to the St. Joseph Parish, Stevens Point Endowment Trust
- Use Gift Cards
- Use "Goodsearch.com" for on-line searches
- Use "Goodshop.com" for on-line purchases

The Stewardship Committee invites you to prayerfully consider contributions through electronic fund transfer (EFT). If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office (715-341-1617 ext. 101) for a form.

Please return this form by Stewardship Sunday weekend, March 24-25, 2012.