

## STEWARDSHIP

REFLECTING ON 2017- PLANNING FOR 2018

It is that time of year when we all reflect on what just happened in our lives this past year and what we plan to do to make 2018 even better. As I sat with Christ in the Adoration Chapel recently I did just that ...reflected. Particularly, I recalled all that has happened in Stewardship these past 3 years. It has taken a committed group of individuals to bring about positive changes here at Holy Family. We started with a dream to open the doors and windows and welcome all people and all ideas to spring forth in Christ's way so that we are truly one in His Holy Name. With our timid enthusiasm the first year I saw that others in the parish began to realize that their voices could be heard, and more and more people started to get involved in group activities, revived old groups and put a whole new spin on what it means to live Christ every day.

I am most proud of the individuals who knew what they were being called to do and gave it every ounce of their

determination to act on God's plan. We now have Eucharistic Adoration 24/7 and lives are being changed every hour through that prayer. We recognized that some of our faith family had drifted away and we sought a way to invite those Catholics home one heart at a time. It did not take any great mind to see that vocations are failing in our country and right here at Holy Family too. We now have an active Vocations committee and families praying every week for those who are being called...and they are being called... to hear our Lord and answer Him. We have made a concerted effort to engage our parish by asking them where their interests lie and what they are prepared to do to fulfill those talents.

Now as we enter 2018 Stewardship will introduce "Seasons of Hope" a grief support program for our parish. We invite with open arms all in our community who face the loss of a loved one, a marriage, a job or

YOU HAVE MADE US FOR  
YOURSELF, AND OUR HEARTS  
ARE RESTLESS UNTIL THEY  
FIND THEIR REST IN YOU.  
ST AUGUSTINE

### GET INVOLVED

Make your New Year's Resolution to finally be involved in your parish. Search out and pray God give you guidance to know where you are needed and have the courage to stand out. Take it from me, not everyone will like what you do or say but God will give you the grace to do His will and your reward awaits you in eternal life not this worldly one. As I watched The Sound of Music for the umpteenth time something stuck in my head...

"Nothing comes from nothing, Nothing ever will"

Let that be your motivation in 2018

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whatever circumstance in life that causes us grief and needs the healing hands and hearts of others to return to the hope God offers us always.

Our parish life is alive, and Stewardship Council plans to focus more on the groups and activities that already exist in our community, so you can find where you fit and can contribute your talents. It is not enough to just show up once a week for Mass, we are called to be Christ in the world and the training ground is right here at Holy Family, so that when you enter the mission fields you are fully armored with the shield of God's grace. Each of us is God's eyes, His mouth, His hands & feet. If we do not do His work, it will not be done.

I am so very thankful that God chose me to serve as our parish Stewardship Director, much has been accomplished in our short history but, so many doors still need to be opened. I know every day I can do better, listen more, and give from my sacrifice and not just from my surplus.

I pray that this year is the best year in Christ that you ever have. Don't be surprised if you step out and take on a challenge you never dreamed you would be able to do. I have seen it happen and I pray God opens your heart to His call.

Always remember: Stewardship is a way of life, how we pray, how we use our God given talents and how we spend our money. We choose whether to follow what Christ taught us when he lived among us, and we alone will answer for our choices. As the Christmas season of the church ends I ask you to keep CHRIST first in each moment of your day the rest of life will take care of itself.

Happy New Year,



Stewardship Director, Holy Family Parish