

SAID ED September 30, 2007

This weekend we are being asked to make a commitment to the Stewardship of Treasure. For the past several weeks, articles in this column and elsewhere in the bulletin have presented a compelling case for being good stewards of the many blessings we have received from God. Two members of the Finance Forum have made excellent pulpit presentations which have served to raise our awareness of what it means to belong to our parish and to share responsibility for the health of our community.

Today each household will be asked to make a new financial commitment of financial resources. My desire is to make this a teaching moment for all of us. The request for financial support for the life of our parish is not just about asking for money. It is an opportunity to express our reliance and dependence upon God. Good Stewardship asks us to give of our substance, not from our leftovers. Committing our family, our household to give from the heart of our funds is a statement of faith. It says: we believe that God comes first in our lives. We put our faith on the line in a very tangible way.

I am sure there are a hundred good reasons why people are reluctant to make this act of faith. But this request comes from God, not me or the Stewardship Committee. I have listed the places in the Scripture where God asks us believers to give 10% of our resources back as an offering of thanks. This is a hard saying, but it is one which is rewarding and growth filled. I try to live by this request as well by giving 5% of my income to the parish and 5% to other charities.

Try it, you'll see what I mean. Put God first in your life in this very real and tangible way and you will see the difference!

The question is not: "Can I/we afford to give more to God?" Rather, the question is: "How does what we give back to God reflect our trust and belief.?"

Giving is an act of faith as much as it is an act of generosity. It's not how much you give to God, but rather does this giving come from the heart of your resources or does it just come from what is left over when all the other bills are paid or from what you have in your pocket at the time.

This is a call to make your gift of treasure to God a high priority and a statement of your trust in the Lord.

Please don't let this opportunity go by without giving it serious thought. I am trusting the Lord and you in asking this. Let us grow together in faith.

Have a great week.
