

SAID ED October 7, 2007

First off, thank you for the wonderful response to last weekend's Stewardship of Treasure Commitments. I am humbled by your generosity and your affirmation of the faith journey that we are traveling together. As I said last weekend, I am not trying to make anyone feel guilty about their contributions to the church. I am asking us all to make a statement of faith and put it in very real and tangible terms.

We have already heard from many of our members during Commitment Sunday last week. If you have not turned in your intention form, please drop it in the collection basket this weekend. Our parish community is blessed to have so many "good stewards." Our dream is that all of our people embrace the challenge of Stewardship.

At Baptism, we receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. At Confirmation, we confirmed our faith in Jesus and the Church. The gifts of the Spirit: Wisdom, Knowledge, Understanding, Piety Fear of the Lord, Right Judgment and Courage, were sealed within us. We ask you to pray that these Gifts of God's Spirit will guide you in making and sustaining your decision to give generously to our parish Community Stewardship Appeal. The spirit of Stewardship is alive here at our parish. Please join us in giving back to the Lord a portion of all that we have received. May the Lord bless you and make you courageous in your faith. When we "seek first the kingdom of God, as Jesus told us, we will be given all things besides.

So, thanks to all who have made their commitment last weekend in church. Thanks to those who have done so through the mail this week. And thanks to all who will do so today. The goal of our Stewardship committee and Finance Council is to obtain a commitment from every household in our parish.

We have received many complements on the visit of Immaculee Ilibagiza last week. She touched the hearts of over 1100 people who came from near and far to hear her words of faith and encouragement. Many people watched on the our webcast and have taken the time to express their appreciation to our parish for bringing Immaculee here. I was so proud of the many people who welcomed our visitors and made them feel at home. Thanks to all who made the evening such a positive, spiritually up lifting experience.

This week we began our classes in the School of Religion. For several weeks our staff has been busy preparing rosters, lessons, textbooks and class rooms for the approximately 800 young people who will file through our doors during a typical week. Our teaching staff includes 66 teachers and more than 50 aides, hall monitors and clerical assistants. Our children look happy as they stream in during the afternoons and evenings to learn more about the faith that we share. We can be justly proud of our generous efforts to pass on the faith.

Have a great week!
