



Covenantal Giving

December 2007

This month's Stewardship message focuses on the many different ways that we give to the parish in addition to the normal weekly collection. Many ministries rely on additional financial sacrifices from our parish community to support the services they provide.

The green Social Concerns envelopes collect approximately \$17,000 annually to support the many outreach ministries at Saint Gabriel's such as AIDS ministry, crisis pregnancy center, prison ministry and other social needs. In addition, we also support other ministries such as providing a better Christmas for over 1,100 children through the Christmas Angel program. Our donations to the monthly food weekend provides 16 families of 4 with much needed food for their family and also supports our monthly meal for the Richmond Friends of the Homeless program. Twice a year, we all pull together to provide a week of food, shelter and services for as many as 50 homeless with our participation in Caritas.



Let's also not forget about the two major fundraisers that we support annually, the Knights of Columbus Casino Night and the Parish Gala. Both functions rely on the community's donations and financial support for their ticket sales, silent auction items and raffles. Most recently, we collected \$6,000 for Father Banive to take back to his parish in Colladere, Haiti as part of our participation in the Haiti Twinning Program.

We are fortunate to be an active and participating community that has committed itself to provide assistance to those in need or crisis, and work to make our world a more just and peaceful place for all. Our gifts of time, talent and money are the keys to continuing our work in the community and to thrive as a parish family.

Stewardship and You

Jesus calls us, as his disciples, to a new way of life - the Christian way of life - of which stewardship is a part. But Jesus does not call us as nameless people in a faceless crowd. He calls us individually, by name. Each one of us - clergy, religious, lay person; married, single; adult, child - has a personal vocation. God intends each one of us to play a unique role in carrying out the divine plan.

The challenge, then, is to understand our role - our vocation - and to respond generously to this call from God. Christian vocation entails the practice of stewardship. In addition, Christ calls each of us to be stewards of our personal vocations, which we receive from God.

(Stewardship: A Disciple's Response, page 46 - U.S. Bishops)

Commitment Update

Annual Amount Pledged:	\$ 471,720
Year-To-Date Pledged (Jan -Nov):	414,362
Year-To-Date Given (Jan-Nov):	348,575
Redemption Rate:	84.1%
Total Contribution (Jan-Nov)	\$ 475,636