



2007 Stewardship Effort

January 2007

We would like to send out a **big thank you to the 400 families** that have returned their 2007 stewardship form. Many people in our parish signed up for multiple ministries and that is greatly appreciated.

Annual financial pledges for our 2007 Stewardship effort range from \$50 to \$12,000, with the average annual pledge to date being \$1096. This is a significant response and our 2007 effort is not over yet. We still hope to hear from everyone in the parish.

A letter will go out shortly to active families that have not yet returned their form. We realize that with the holidays and crazy weather, returning the form can easily slip one's mind. If you receive one in the mail, please take the time to complete it and return it at Mass or directly to the Parish Office.

Please note below the final financial figures from the 2006 Stewardship effort. Thanks to all of you who helped with contributions to the regular offertory fund in 2006. As you can see, we increased our donations from 2005 by over \$28,000, which represents a 5.6% increase.



One of our goals as a stewardship team in 2007 is to increase the redemption rate on our pledges. Our 2006 rate of 86.2% is pretty darn good. It would be wonderful if our 2007 redemption rate ends up somewhere between 95% and 100%.

It's amazing what a significant impact there is to our finances when parishioners miss just one or two contributions. If you're away on a weekend, please make sure to make up the next week. Better yet, think about doubling up before you go away!!

Again, we are so thankful for the commitment you make to our community, and the many concrete and tangible ways that so many of you live out that commitment!

Stewardship and You

Because the Church's individual members do collectively make up the Body of Christ, that body's health and well-being are the responsibility of the members -- the personal responsibility of each one of us. We all are stewards of the Church. As "to each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit" (1 Cor 12:7), so stewardship in an ecclesial setting means cherishing and fostering the gifts of all, while using one's own gifts to serve the community of faith. The rich tradition of tithing set forth in the Old Testament is an expression of this (See, for example, DT 14:22; Lv 27:30.) Those who set their hearts upon spiritual gifts must "seek to have an abundance for building up the church" (1 Cor 14:12). But how is the Church built up? In a sense there are as many answers to that question as there are individual members with individual vocations. But the overarching answer for all is this: **through personal participatoin in and support of the Church's mission of proclaiming and teaching, serving and sanctifying.** (Stewardship: A Disciple's Response, pages 33-34 - U.S. Bishops)

Commitment Update

Amount Pledged in 2006:	\$ 507,460
Amount Contributed towards Pledge in 2006	437,710
Redemption Rate: 86.2%	
Total Contributions in 2006	524,180
Prior Year Contributions (2005)	496,007
	(increase of 5.6%)

We are taking steps to provide an Individual Giving Report to each household every month. You will be hearing more about this soon.