



Buildings and Grounds

May 2007

It is always nice at go to a church which is attractive and well-maintained. St. Gabriel has several teams of dedicated and generous people who volunteer to help maintain and enhance the grounds and buildings of our Parish.

There are five **Lawn Mowing Teams**, comprised of five to seven people per team, which perform the weekly task of mowing and trimming the extensive lawns at St. Gabriel from April to November. Our **Landscaping Team** conducts annual spring and fall clean-ups of the grounds including mulching and trimming of the shrubs. Monthly "tune-ups" are also performed. Both teams help maintain our facilities as an inviting place to greet us as we gather to worship or attend other functions. Their work is also an opportunity for team members to meet other parishioners whom they might not see on a regular basis and all team members get fresh air and exercise and they also have fun!

Finally, as special building or grounds-related tasks arise, other parishioners volunteer their time and talent to help with **carpentry, electrical work, gardening, plumbing, and other such tasks**. For example, a couple from the parish got in place the new sign at the Bethia Road entrance - and they designed and even contributed the handsome canvas covers to protect the fountains in our Memorial Prayer Garden. A team of parishioners just planted a slew of new perennials (many provided by parishioners) in the prayer garden. Other parishioners tend the garden regularly. Right now, volunteers are working to do paint touch-ups in the Commons, hang energy saving curtains in the Nursery, fix broken cabinet doors in the Kitchen and much more!

If you can help with similar one-time or ongoing projects like these - please contact Maggie Martino at the office (639-6712).

Special note: *Some of our equipment is really beginning to show its age. If you have an extra, operational, used lawn mower, edger, trimmer, or blower sitting in your garage or shed, please consider donating it to the parish. Your donation can save the parish significant money and possibly help with your taxes!*



A special opportunity (especially if you have young children)! Right now, we are in the process of assembling a team to perform a task which will provide an amazing benefit for the younger children of the Parish. One of our Parish families, the Fortes, has offered to donate an elaborate play structure to be placed on St. Gabriel property. If brand new, this play structure would have a value of around \$25,000. A team of volunteers is needed to disassemble, transport, and reassemble this 20 X 35 ft. structure here at St. Gabriel. Just think of the smiles on the kids' faces when they see this giant play structure! By volunteering, you can be a part of the team that makes it happen! Please contact Maggie Martino (639-6712) to volunteer. Like all of our Stewardship tasks, this will provide you with a chance to contribute in an important way to the overall parish community.

Stewardship and You

How does one participate in the mission of the Church? This participation takes different forms according to people's different gifts and offices, but there is a fundamental obligation arising from the sacrament of baptism: that people place their gifts, their resources - their selves - at God's service in and through the Church. Here, Jesus is the model. Even though his perfect self-emptying is unique, it is within the power of the disciples, and a duty, that they be generous stewards of the Church, giving freely of their time, talent and treasure. "Consider this," Paul says, addressing not only the Christians at Corinth but all of us. "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully...God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:6-7).

(Stewardship: A Disciple's Response, pages 34 - U.S. Bishops)

Commitment Update

Annual Amount Pledged:	\$ 483,259
Year-To-Date Pledged (Jan -Apr):	150,248
Year-To-Date Given (Jan-Apr):	133,236
Redemption Rate: 88.6%	
Total Contribution (Jan-Mar)	\$ 173,062