

# Spirituality of Stewardship

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## *Stewardship of Faith & Prayer*

### **A message from Msgr. Kihneman on the Spirituality of Stewardship: Faith & Prayer**

#### *Spirituality of Stewardship: Faith & Prayer*

In January, as a parish, we began the journey of the Spirituality of Stewardship. This of course involves our identity as Christians and as creations of God. It also calls us to a real spirit of trust and acceptance of God in our lives. As good stewards, we also are called to a spirituality of gratitude and thanksgiving for all the blessings that God has given us. In the Spirituality of Stewardship, we come to know God's love for us and respond with love in return both to God and our neighbor.

The first part of our living the Spirituality of Stewardship that we addressed was and is Vocation. Both by living our own call, whether it is as married, single or religious (priest, deacon, sister or brother) and the promotion of vocations in our midst in the *Called By Name* program. Everyone was given the opportunity to pray for vocations and to nominate someone whom they thought might have a priestly or religious vocation. Thirty-nine people were nominated and after much discussion and discernment, ten have shown

interest in receiving more information regarding priestly or religious vocations, which has the potential for great blessings for our parish and the church as a whole.

The next part of the Spirituality of Stewardship that we as a parish will emphasize is our Faith and Prayer life. Our faith is a treasured gift from God and when lived out through prayer, the Word of God and liturgy, can move mountains. In order for each of us to make a personal, yet public commitment in our faith life and prayer life during this Lent and throughout the year, each person in the parish will be given an opportunity to fill out a faith and prayer card and present it to God at the altar on the weekend of March 7th & 8th.

The early tradition of the church was and is that each person brings their gift to the altar. In modern times, the collection and offertory has replaced individual altar offerings. For this weekend of masses, in a very symbolic way, we will all have an opportunity to fill out a faith and prayer commitment pledge and to present these commitment cards to God at the altar. As you fill out the commitment pledge, you will also be able to fill out a copy for yourself that you can take home and place in a visible location (i.e., your prayer corner or home altar) as a reminder of your faith and prayer pledge.

As we grow in our spiritual lives as God's stewards, we become more like Christ and therefore, are a visible sign of the Body of Christ for the world. Our hope as a parish is to continue to grow throughout the year in our Spirituality of Stewardship, which in the future will also include our care of the earth (April), sharing our time and talent (September/October), giving of our treasure (November), and as we have already discussed, promoting vocations and nurturing our faith and prayer lives. May God continue to bless us on our spiritual journey of stewardship.

~Msgr. Louis Kihneman, III

**Results from the Faith & Prayer Commitment Cards printed in the 05/03/09 bulletin:**

Results from the Spirituality of Stewardship

Faith & Prayer Commitment Cards

A total of 1,167 Faith and Prayer Commitment cards were received at the altar during a special altar call of faith and prayer held the weekend of March 7th & 8th.

Many of our parishioners committed to praying daily, for at least 15 minutes, attend mass weekly or daily and to pray grace before meals.

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