



November is Stewardship Month

Dear Friends,

November has been designated Stewardship Month, which is great because it gives me an opportunity to say, Thank you, Thank you, from the bottom of my heart THANK YOU, to all the dedicated members of our Parish community who so generously volunteer their time, talents and treasure.

I have always felt that the many, many hours volunteers spend here are incalculable and priceless - turns out, and I know this may surprise you, but I may be wrong. The organization, Independent Sector, estimates that an hour of a volunteer's time, in the State of Wisconsin, is worth approximately \$20/hour. When you do the math, it's easy to see that we could not operate and do God's work here at St. Patrick's without you!

Before my assignment to St. Patrick Parish I had heard of the many outstanding ministries, the quality staff people and the amazing good works of the parish. In my short time with you, I have witnessed countless acts of charity and selfless service. So much of what goes on around here is quiet, everyday sainthood. You should know that I brag endlessly throughout the Diocese, to priests and anyone who will listen, about the joyful spirit of volunteerism that is present in our community. I am not shy about telling the good news of St. Patrick Parish!

If you're not involved in any of the activities or ministries of the parish (and there are many), please accept this as your invitation to get involved. This is, after all, your parish - it belongs to you! Every member of this community has been gifted by God our Creator with unique talents and qualities. You in turn are called to return those gifts to Him by giving of yourself to others. I hope you will find time to listen to God's quiet voice (not mine!) and discern how you can participate more fully in the faith life of the parish by joining with us in one or more ministries. Spend some time looking over our parish website and you will see the wide variety of opportunities for deeper involvement. Speak to our leaders and volunteers at our upcoming Ministry Fair to be held after all the Masses on December 3 and 4. I hope and pray that your gratitude for God's many gifts in your life will continue to spill over in joyful giving of your time and talent with us.

Volunteers often tell me about of the sense of solidarity and belonging they feel here. These are people just like you, they lead busy lives; they have to balance the demands of work and family, yet every day they speak to me of the blessings they receive from sharing their time, talents and treasure. Winston Churchill, a great orator, statesman and a quick wit, once said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

Your gifts, freely given here every day, humble and amaze me. I am honored to be here, and even though the majority of "youse guys" have not gotten wise to the fact that the Yankees are America's team, I love you all and I will forever be grateful to the kind, talented and generous members of St. Patrick Parish. Please join me and your fellow parishioners in praying the Stewardship Prayer throughout November. Together let us ask God to "open the hearts and minds of the people of St. Patrick Parish" so that we continue to flourish by giving back to each other and our community. It is through our prayer and good works that all will know we are disciples of Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,