

November 1, 2009

Dear Parishioners,

In the coming week's Gospel, Jesus praises the widow who gave two small coins. Why did he single her out? Jesus tells us: "She, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood."

God has blessed each one of us with life and a unique package of gifts and talents and then trusts us to use them in ways that build up His kingdom. God has given us all that we have and expects us to be good stewards of these gifts. What we do with and for our families, the work we do at the workplace or at home, the way we spend our leisure time – all of these things are the "stuff" of Stewardship.

As you heard announced at Mass and in the bulletin, this coming weekend, November 7-8, is Stewardship Weekend. We will be conducting a Stewardship Renewal, asking all parishioners to prayerfully reflect about the ways you have been blessed and to consider making a commitment to share your gifts. Stewardship is what we do after we say "I believe". All of our time, talent, resources and relationships come from God. Stewardship is the way in which we say "thank you" and return a portion of these gifts to God and his Church. As a community of faith, Our Lady Queen of Angels is committed to living the Stewardship way of life.

A brochure to help you discern your Stewardship commitment as well as a commitment card are enclosed with this letter. I invite you to bring your commitment card to Mass on November 7 or 8. As a visible example of our individual and collective commitments to Stewardship, I will be inviting all of our parishioners to bring their commitment cards forward and place them in the basket at the front of the altar as a sacred offering, a covenant between you and God. Stewardship is not a passive act, but an active witness to what we say we believe. Your commitment card can also be returned by mail or dropped off at the parish office, but we hope you will be able to join us at Mass next weekend to celebrate as a parish family our renewed thanks for all that God has given us.

Do you ever wonder what happened to the widow in Mark's Gospel? All we know is that her extraordinary gift is not only an example for us, but it actually mirrors God's love. When he gives, he lets go – just like the widow did. He calls to share, but he does not force us. God gives us time, abilities and financial resources. Then he calls us to share. Please take time this week to pray and discern what your response will be to our loving God.

With gratitude to God for your faithfulness and generosity,

Rev. Kerry Beaulieu
Pastor