



# ST. CLARE HERALD

Living the Mission of the Parish

*Worshipping and working together . . .  
To evangelize, to educate and to serve each other and the community.*

January 15, 2006

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***God is the source of all . . . In Gratitude we give back our Time, Talent & Treasure.***

## TIME

### ***The Christmas Season***

Prior to Christmas, parishioners' lives shift into overdrive. Besides doing the regular family life things, family members spend time in service to others. We thought that we would give you an idea of how some parishioners spent time in service to others in the Parish and through the Parish. Decorating the Church inside ... 60 volunteer hours. Practice for Christmas Liturgies Music ... 234 volunteer hours. Angel Tree Project ... 14 volunteer hours (plus participants shopping hours.) Youth Ministry Luminaries and Homebound Ornaments ... 23 volunteer hours.

***Total volunteer hours . . . 331 + . . . "priceless"***

### ***The Parish Needs Some of Your Time***

- Bingo Workers Needed. Various positions to fill. Work one Sunday evening every 5 weeks. Good benefits – Bingo profits help everyone in the Parish. ***The profit for 2005 was over \$15,000!*** If interested in working, call 412-233-7870 and ask for Pat.
- Apostolate Committee Members. Good Christian. Willing to share parish vision to evangelize, to assist the poor and needy and to build inner-faith & inter-faith relationships. One meeting a month on 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of month. Call Pat at 412-233-7870.
- Greeters at Mass. Willing to offer hospitality in the name of the Parish. This requires being at Mass a half hour early, wearing a name tag, possibly handing out bulletins, and a "born-on" smile. Call Pat at 412-233-7870.

## TALENT

### ***Web Site Assistance***

The Parish appreciates Aaron Maricic's willingness to help assist Nathan Bindas with posting items on the parish web page. He is a busy college student but has found time to help the parish keep its web site updated.

### ***The Parish Needs Your Talents***

- CCD Teachers. Parishioners who can organize, teach children, and are willing to learn these skills are needed. There are folks who can help you get started teaching CCD if you are willing to volunteer. Call Pat at 412-233-7870.

## TREASURE

### ***Recent Financial Support***

Through the good will of several parishioners, the "flood control unit" on the Boiler has been paid for. It was installed during Christmas Week. Donations were received to cover the expense of repairing the Friary roof and a substantial donation to the PSP was also realized.

## Saint Clare of Assisi Parish

*A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust*

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## STEWARDSHIP EDUCATION CORNER...

### *Parish Share Program (PSP)*

#### **What is the Parish Share Program?**

The Parish Share Program, which is otherwise known as PSP, is a Diocesan Program for revenue sharing and support for the common services that are rendered to the 215 parishes of the Diocese, the **Local Church**. According to the most recent Diocesan Financial Report, PSP makes up about 61% (or \$13 million) of the income of the Central Administration of the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Remember that the **Local Church** is a technical term used by the Roman Catholic Church and it refers to the Diocese under the leadership of the Bishop consisting of numerous parishes as its subdivisions. The local parish, such as Saint Clare of Assisi, exists only through the Diocese. The Diocese is the basis for our identity and existence. Therefore, the PSP is a means by which our parish lives out its existence.

#### **How does it work?**

Each parish is assessed a certain amount of money to pay each year. The amount assessed is 17% (it is 16% if a parish operates a Catholic School) of assessable income. Assessable income are income categories such as Regular Sunday Collections, donations, bequests, etc. The Diocese decides on which income categories the 17% is assessed. It would not include things such as collections for Hurricane Katrina. We are assessed on income from the previous year. The new PSP year always begins on the weekend prior to Ash Wednesday of the current year and ends on the second weekend prior to the coming Ash Wednesday. This year's collection begins on the weekend of February 25-26, 2006 and ends February 10-11, 2007. Our Parish Share is based on income categories in the fiscal year of 7/1/2004 to 6/30/2005. ***In practical terms, the actual amount that St. Clare of Assisi Parish owes for PSP for the year 2006 is \$51,586.***

Money to pay for our PSP assessment must come from the regular checking account or through special PSP collections. It can also come from special donations that people make to the Parish if the donor designates the offering to be applied to PSP. The money is sent to the Diocese on a monthly basis.

If the Parish meets its annual PSP assessment before the current PSP year ends, the surplus in the PSP account is "rolled over" into the Parish's Savings Account with the Diocese, and may be used at the discretion of the Parish.

#### **How does PSP help St. Clare of Assisi Parish?**

The Central Administration of the Diocese provides "technical services" to the 215 parishes of the Diocese. The following are some practical ways that Saint Clare of Assisi Parish benefits and receives support from the Parish Share Program of the Diocese. The Diocese has been handling all legal matters regarding the sale of our buildings. They make sure that insurance is provided for all of the parishes. We have buildings and a van that is insured. We had to file insurance claims on some of the vandalism on the parish properties. They provide all of the technical assistance for establishing and reviewing our youth religious education programs. They provide the training for our CCD teachers. The Diocese provides the staff for handling all marriage cases. They provide a program for marriage preparation. The Diocese handles all payrolls and the filing of W-2's.

#### **PSP 2006**

Even though the 2006 Parish Share Campaign in the Diocese of Pittsburgh officially begins on February 26 (the Sunday before Ash Wednesday), we are asking our parishioners to fill out the Parish Share Pledge envelope that is in the January/February packet and return it on February 5. The first Sunday of the month is the regular day for our Parish Share collection.

*Fr. Rich*

**Direct all communications regarding material in "The Herald" to  
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