



ST. CLARE HERALD

A Publication of the Stewardship Council
Living the Mission of the Parish

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

November 19, 2006

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

TIME Activity Picture Board in Church

In the back of the Church, there is a picture board that captures some of the Parish activities of the summer and fall. Some of the activities include the talk by Brother Jim Townsend, OFM Cap regarding his life as a prisoner and now as a Capuchin. One of our parishioners celebrated her 100th birthday. The youth of the Parish bagged food for the local food bank, washed cars for a fundraiser and worked with adults in the Parish to hold its Second Annual Fall Spaghetti Dinner. Members of the Apostolate Committee blessed the Parish with Father D'Agostino, who told us of his work in Kenya with families and children who have AIDS or are HIV positive. ***Their estimated hours of volunteer time is too much to count, but for the sake of the work of the Kingdom, it is priceless.***

The Parish Needs Some of Your Time...

- Meals-on-Wheels Drivers and Delivery People. – Meals are delivered to the homebound on a 5-day a week basis. If you can help deliver the meals or be a driver, call 412-233-6325. Meals-on-Wheels is not operated by the Parish but there are many parishioners who benefit from the program.

TALENT Behind the Scenes CCD Work

The Parish is blessed to have volunteers teaching religious education to children in grades 1 to 8. Besides having new folks willing to teach and be teacher aides, Caren Pacerucha has volunteered to use her office skills to assist in administrating the CCD Program by using a newly acquired **Parish Data System** program called **Formation Office Management**. This program helps the Parish organize information regarding all of its religious education programs. Caren is becoming more proficient each week that she uses this program.

The Parish Needs Your Talents

- Young Musicians. Young parishioners who are taking music lessons and have an interest in music. Liturgical music in the Parish can be enriched by its youth. Are there budding musicians in the Parish? Call 412-233-7870.

TREASURE Meeting Obligations

The Parish has a number of financial obligations that it continues to meet. Balancing our own budget is a slow process but we are making improvements there. We are keeping up our assessment to help pay for Cathedral renovations (St Paul Cathedral, the Mother Church of the Diocese). When entering or leaving church, we hope you will continue to place a dollar or any loose change you may have in one of the **Cathedral Banks** that are located at the church entrances. The Parish Share Program (PSP) assessment continues to be paid monthly. Thank you for helping the Parish to meet its responsibilities to the Diocese.

Saint Clare of Assisi Parish

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

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STEWARDSHIP EDUCATION CORNER...

Stewardship Conversion

This month, November 2006, is the three and a half-year birthday of the St. Clare of Assisi Stewardship Council. The Goal of the Stewardship Council is “to develop sustainable processes that will increase and encourage the giving of **time, talent, skills and treasures** entrusted to its care by the parishioners, for the benefit of our diocese, parish and community.”

Educating and Reforming

The Stewardship Council has been working with the various committees, organizations and staff members of the Parish to help the Parish be a better steward of the blessings that God has given it. The Council has also influenced the Parish to look at itself in a new light. The Parish and its members are gifts from God. The Council has asked the Parish leaders, managers and parishioners to keep the question of “How does the Parish and parishioners consciously become a gift to others?” The Stewardship Council’s presence in the Parish and its work is bringing about a change or a “conversion” in the Parish.

The Human Dimension of Gift-Giving

In the beginning years, the Council focused on the human dimension of stewardship by encouraging folks to give of their time and talent to the Parish. The Council looked at ways to integrate the willingness of parishioners to volunteer and the use of their talents and skills along with the necessity of managing such activity in some organized and consistent manner. This has resulted in the establishment of the “Annual Ministry Sunday Celebration” at which we celebrate the ministries of the Parish. It has also brought about new people helping to minister to parishioners and folks in the broader community in old and new ways.

The Financial Dimension of Gift-Giving

The Council is now calling for the parishioners to look at its financial situation in a different way. Treasure, both the money of parishioners and the money of the Parish, is a gift from God. As stated above, in the spring, through Ministry Sunday, the Council calls parishioners to take inventory of one’s time, talents and skills and to see how one might better share those in the name of Jesus Christ with fellow parishioners. Beginning this fall, the Council is initiating a plan whereby parishioners take inventory of their family and individual needs and priorities and the needs and priorities of the Parish. The Council members are asking the parishioners to seriously consider increasing weekly contributions to the Parish. They are asking parishioners to consider not “How much can I afford to give the Church” but “What place does the Church have in my life and what place does faith have in my life.” This is not a new question because the old-timers who built the parishes of Clairton asked the same question. During this time of **re-building**, the same question needs to be asked.

More To Come

In the following weeks, there will be more information about stewardship and treasure. There will also be a weekend when pledge cards will be distributed to parishioners and you will be asked if you can increase your yearly contributions to the Church and if so by how much.

The Council is encouraging everyone to participate in this effort. It will help the Parish in its planning with other parishes in the deanery through the Cluster process and it will assist the Parish in administering the Parish, in providing pastoral care and in providing a vibrant sacramental life

- The Stewardship Council (Andy Haky - Chairperson)

***Direct all communications regarding material in “The Herald” to
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