



SAINT TIMOTHY CATHOLIC CHURCH



Welcome to Our New Parish Newsletter!

Dear Friends in Christ,

Welcome to the first issue of our new monthly parish newsletter!

As our parish community continues to grow and develop stewardship as a way of life, we recognize the need for increased communication. Through this newsletter, we hope to share stories that will help us all to better understand who we are as Catholics and what we are doing as individual members of Christ's family. In upcoming issues, we will focus on what's going on in the St. Timothy parish community, and how those activities and events are changing hearts and minds and helping parishioners grow closer to Christ and each other. Each article will ultimately focus on Christ at work within our community through the stewardship way of life.



Our hope is that this newsletter will be a successful means for ongoing education and formation in our faith, and I pray it will be a vehicle through which you are informed and inspired to become more actively involved in the life of Christ and the parish.

Another way I hope to improve our parish's communication efforts is through a comprehensive parish survey that will be conducted over the next month. Through the survey, I want to hear from you regarding our parish and its future. A survey will be mailed to each home, and then I will ask you to take the time to fill it out and return it as soon as possible. They will also be emailed and available on our website,

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“What Blessings Come St. Timothy Vaca

Two years ago, Sandy Hay was in a low place. She prayed for God to send her something she could help with, something she could get involved with. It was like an answer to her prayer when she heard Fr. Malley say the Vacation Bible School was seeking artistic support.

“Helping with Vacation Bible School pulled me out of that period of my life, and in a way, I would say it saved my life,” Sandy says. “It is amazing what blessings come when you say ‘yes!’”

Whether part of the ministry team or of those attending, each year so many families are blessed by St. Timothy Vacation Bible School. This year, the program went from 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, for two weeks beginning June 15 and then June 22.

“It went fantastic, and I really think the volunteers are the ones who make it a great time for the children,” says Peggy Cloutier, Director of Faith Formation. “These well-trained adult and teen volunteers did everything they could to make it a wonderful experience.”

Planning for this year’s Vacation Bible School began in November, and Peggy worked closely with the other VBS directors – Gina Gawieniczuk, Ministry Resource Specialist, Lisa Gaspar, a dedicated volunteer who plays a pivotal role in VBS, and Pam Burke, Coordinator of Religious Education.

The program used was *Everest: Conquering Challenges with God’s Mighty Power*. Each day had a related theme, Scripture verse and biblical story, and started



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e When You Say "Yes" tion Bible School

with music in the sanctuary. Then, the children rotated through different stations that included activities like outdoor games, music, enacted Bible adventures, video clips, experiential crafts, and an imagination and science-related station.

"The kids were constantly engaged and moved every 20 minutes," Peggy says. "Each team of 10 children had an adult and a teen volunteer who interacted with them at each station and during snack time. The kids really felt cared about and listened to."

Two hundred students enjoyed this year's program, which came to life through the atmosphere created by the Environment Team. Sandy has always enjoyed working with children and doing art projects, so the team was a natural fit for her. Actually, the mountainous scenes she helped create for this year's theme had a special meaning for Sandy.

"Fr. Malley and I had talked about remembering a spot in my life where I felt really close to God, and I thought about being in Colorado in the mountains," Sandy says. "While I was making these scenes, it was like God was speaking to me. Anything is possible with God."

St. Timothy Vacation Bible School is open to everyone and fills up quickly each year. All are welcome to get involved, whether your children are attending or you are looking for a joyful way to give of your time and talents to a faith-filled and interactive program for our youth!

"You get to know and meet many people you didn't know before," Sandy says. "I wish others could step out and try it and see how blessed they could be!"



*For more information about
Vacation Bible School, please
reach out to the Faith Formation
Office at 813-961-1716.*



Offering Support to Ke

When it comes to stewardship, each one of us has a unique talent we can “bring to the table.” Larry Schinsky, a St. Timothy parishioner of 10 years, realized his background in sales could be utilized in order to better our parish community.

“It seemed natural that I get involved in our various efforts to strengthen our parish,” Larry says. “What we have accomplished is tremendous, but I sort of balk at the term ‘campaign.’ This is more than raising money. Our faith community is really a family – just as in a real family, we must support one another to survive.”

For the past several years, the parish has been developing funding for the building projects that are now largely completed. Included in the various projects were the completion of the Youth Center; the expansion of the Fr. Paddy Kennedy Parish Hall; addressing

the already existing debt; and fulfilling our obligation to the diocese in the Forward in Faith effort.

“When I got here, our major fundraiser was the Champagne and Shamrocks affair,” Larry says. “I immediately got involved in that, and I guess my connection to our other efforts to cultivate other improvements more or less followed from that. ‘Stewardship’ is not a term I use a whole lot, but I do understand that I am part of something bigger, that I have responsibilities beyond the narrow world in which I function. My children are grown, but I have two grandchildren – not in this immediate area, but they represent the young people I see in this parish.”

Larry is fond of recalling the Biblical passage, “From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more” (Luke 12:48).



y Projects in Our Parish

“That really says it all to me,” Larry says. “I have strong feelings about our responsibility to the Church and to our parish, St. Timothy. What made this project even more important to me is that it addressed issues with our young people – they are the future. I know I have been very blessed in my life, and I need to give something back. My parish is one of the best places to do that. I sometimes get frustrated when I see my fellow parishioners turn their backs on efforts like this. A lot of thought and planning has gone into our building projects and to how we could best raise the money to accomplish them. For me, giving does not have a timeline. It is never too late to offer support, and although these projects are nearing completion, they are still in need of support.”

These various projects included addressing a number of parish needs, while enhancing our ability to meet

those needs. Mother Teresa of Calcutta School opens this year – not a parish school, but a diocesan school, the fact that it is located on our property greatly benefits our own children, as well as others in the area. The addition of the Youth Center offers our young people a place to gather while building and advancing their own faith, as additional facilities are opened up for the whole parish. Finally, the Kennedy Parish Hall is now a place that provides more opportunities for parish ministries to thrive, as well as presenting us with a place for greater social activity.

“I know that people sometimes do not think they get anything out of this – but as I said, we are a family, and what is good for one of us is good for all of us,” Larry says. “We do need to pull together. We understand that everyone cannot give equally – some are better able than others. What we really need is equal sacrifice, however.”



*If you would like more information, or would like to still contribute, please call the Parish Office at **813-968-1077**.*



What Does Stewardship Mean?

What comes to mind when you hear the word “stewardship”?

Do you think of it as just another way to talk about money? Do you quickly dismiss it as a notion that has nothing to do with being Catholic?

Stewardship is actually a concept that is Scripturally based, and is absolutely vital to our life as Catholics. God tells us, in the very first book of the Old Testament, “Be fertile and multiply. Fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air and all the living things that move on the earth” (Gen 1:28).

What does that mean to us today? It simply means that God is telling us, “This is yours, so take care of it.” One of the first things God tells us to do is to be good stewards of the gifts He has entrusted to us!

The Old Testament is not the only place where we can find references to stewardship. Indeed, of the 36 parables in the New Testament, more than half of them deal with time, talent, possessions, or money. Therefore, if Jesus spoke of stewardship that much, it should be a very important part of our lives!

As Catholics, we refer to the three facets of stewardship as “time, talent and treasure.” Although these are three concrete ways to express and measure stewardship, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops tells us that stewardship is part of discipleship. Stewardship is a way of responding to God’s call in every aspect of our lives.

The Scriptures and Church traditions teach us one important point that cannot be overstated — that stew-

ardship is primarily based on our need to give in gratitude, not on the Church’s need to receive. Of course, both the Catholic Church and our particular parish will always need money. However, we are not asked to give simply to defray costs and fund charitable programs. We are instead asked to remember our need to gratefully return a portion of our time, talent and treasure to God, recognizing all that He has given to us.

It is important to remember that stewardship is a way of life, and not a program. True Catholic stewardship involves an ongoing call to live as followers of Christ. It takes time to find and define personal goals. You can begin by examining your personal commitments to the parish. How do you live your faith in your daily life with your family and friends? How much time do you spend in daily prayer, going to Mass or being involved in parish ministries and activities? What percentage of your income should you give back to God every week? What talents do you have that could be used to strengthen our parish family?

The coming months will see us increasing and intensifying our education and communication on stewardship. We will be developing a better understanding of how stewardship is a way of responding to God’s call to discipleship. And with God’s help, changes will occur in each of our hearts as we devote ourselves to a stewardship renewal within our parish. Examine how you are currently responding to God’s call to stewardship. If God called you home tomorrow, would He proclaim, “Well done, my good and faithful servant”?

Journeying Together Towards Holiness *The Society of St. Vincent de Paul*

The beauty of stewardship is that no matter how new or familiar you are to a community, and no matter the ways in which you are involved, there will always be wonderful opportunities to do more – to serve, to provide and to give back.

Angela Kent, a member of St. Timothy for more than 20 years along with her husband, Gregory, provides such an example. Although Angela and Gregory were involved in many ministries, it was something that happened in 2003 that inspired them to become Vincentians.

“I have always had a compassionate heart for the less fortunate, the outcast, those who were shunned by society because they just didn’t fit in the ‘norm,’ says Angela, who serves as President of the St. Timothy Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. “There is a sense of duty to protect and be an advocate for neighbor, animal and nature. While I was placing a donation in the poor box, someone asked me if I wanted to do more, and invited me to attend a St. Vincent de Paul meeting.”

Once Angela learned what the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was all about, she realized this was where she was called to be.

“My passion to help and make a difference in the lives of others could be realized through the workings of the Society,” she says. “However, I want to emphasize that this motivation is true of all of us who are involved. Vincentians promote a life of prayer and reflections, individually and by sharing with their fellow members and the poor they serve.”

The St. Timothy Conference acts as a bridge providing aid, encouragement and spiritual support – all to help those in need get through short-term crises.

“It is our hope to promote self-sufficiency, by offering person-to-person service,” Angela says. “We meet with people in their homes which provides convenience and privacy for them. This is what sets us apart from other agencies. Client information is handled with the utmost confidentiality – only the Vincentians going on the home visit and the keeper of the conference records have access to client information. This information is not shared with anyone outside the active member council.”

Our local St. Vincent de Paul affiliate has benefited from our parish’s building projects, as well.



Here is what the newly expanded pantry looks like filled with the donated food.

“We have moved our pantry to a much larger space in the parish center,” Angela says. “With the additional storage shelving and the outside entrance, we are now able to open our pantry on a regular basis to serve the needy in our parish boundaries. Initially, the pantry will be open twice a month on the first and third Sundays.”

Over the past year, our St. Timothy Conference has collected and distributed eight tons of food, as well as 20 tons of pet food. In addition, 2,600 people have been served with financial aid, food or other material goods, including providing \$44,000 in financial support. Our Vincentians have traveled more than 2,000 miles and logged almost 2,000 service hours. They have made 21 prison visits, during which they served 272 women, traveled another 900 miles, and logged an additional 165 service hours. Supported entirely by the generosity of our St. Timothy parishioners, our Conference currently numbers 15 active members and 22 associate members.

“This is a spiritually based ministry,” Angela says. “Vincentians are called to journey together towards holiness and draw nearer to Christ by serving Him in the poor and one another. They desire to help relieve suffering for love alone, without thinking of any reward or advantage for themselves.”

Interested in learning more about the Society of St. Vincent de Paul? Contact the St. Timothy Conference at 813-968-1077, ext. 261.



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Welcome to Our New Parish Newsletter! *continued from front cover*

to be completed by those 14 years and older. Your input will be very important, and it will give the Pastoral Council and me a better understanding of your thoughts about our parish.

This November, we will conduct our Annual Stewardship Renewal. The Renewal is the time each year when we ask each other to re-prioritize the way we use God's gifts in the Church. It is the time we write down how we will become more devoted to Christ over the next year with our commitments of time (using my time on earth wisely; making time for personal prayer, family prayer, and quality time with friends and loved ones); talent (using God-given gifts to strengthen the Church through service to parish ministries and other activities), and treasure (the wise and just management of my financial resources; giving a proportionate amount of my income to the parish).

As we strive to develop stewardship as a way of life at St. Timothy, the support and involvement of each individual parishioner is necessary to sustain the life of our parish. All of you have a place here, and all of you have a role to fill in the life of the parish as we live our lives as disciples of Christ.

May the Holy Spirit renew and refresh all of us as we work together to build our parish family through the use of our time, talent and treasure.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Kenneth Malley

• *Mass Schedule* •

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 PM • Sunday: 7:30, 9, 11 am & 5:30pm • Daily: Mon-Sat 9am • Holy Days: 9am & 7pm • Vigil: 7pm