



SAINT TIMOTHY
CATHOLIC CHURCH



**“It Has Given Me a Perspective
of Parish and Church”**
*The Finance and Pastoral Councils
at St. Timothy Catholic Church*

As we each strive to live out the stewardship way of life as members of the St. Timothy family, it’s important to remember that we must also be good stewards of our parish itself. In so doing, there are two core groups within our parish – our Finance Council and Pastoral Council – that help provide guidance on St. Timothy’s faithful path as the body of Christ. Both serve in advisory capacities to Fr. Kenneth Malley.

These types of councils have strong traditions in the Catholic Church, and both have existed for many years in the parish. The Finance Council consists of eight people, while the Pastoral Council includes 12 lay persons, as well as those who serve in an ex-officio capacity.

Under Canon Law, a Parish Finance Council is mandated – “In each parish there is to be a finance council which is governed, in addition to universal law, by



Mark and Julie Pope

norms issued by the diocesan bishop and in which the Christian faithful, selected according to these same norms, are to assist the pastor in the administration of the goods of the parish, without prejudice to the prescript of Canon 532” (537). Canon 532 states clearly that the pastor is the responsible party – decision-making is his, with the advice of lay boards like the Finance Council.

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The Finance and Pastoral Councils at St. Timothy Catholic Church continued from front cover

As far as the Pastoral Council, the Code of Canon Law states, “If the diocesan bishop judges it opportune...a pastoral council is to be established in each parish, over which the pastor presides and in which the Christian faithful, together with those who share in pastoral care by virtue of their office in the parish, assist in fostering pastoral activity” (536). Thus, the Pastoral Council is strongly recommended by Canon Law, and is mandated by the Bishop of St. Petersburg.

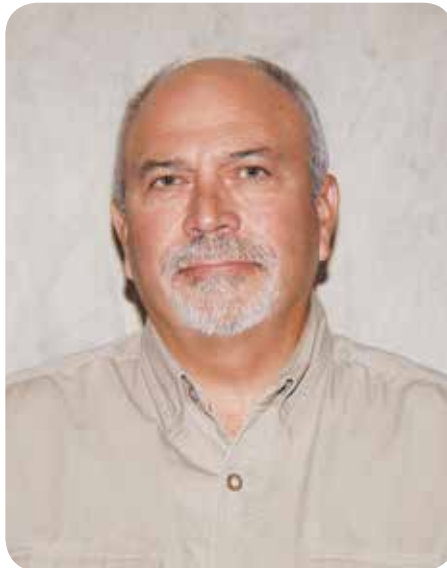
Here at St. Timothy, the Finance Council is chaired by Mark Pope, and the President of the Pastoral Council is Jack Provenzano. Mark feels honored to be a part of the Finance Council.

“It is almost exhilarating for me to be part of the Finance Council at St. Timothy,” Mark says. “It has given me a perspective of parish and Church, which I never had previously. It is a great way for me to be a good steward, to share of my time and talent.”

Jack has similar feelings about being a member of the Pastoral Council.

“I honestly never thought of myself as a church-type person,” Jack says. “However, I want to make a difference. I have been extremely fortunate and blessed in my life. Serving in this way is a way of me repaying God and the Church for all those blessings.”

Year-round on a monthly basis, the Finance Council meets with the pastor to review finances,



Jack Provenzano

and to provide input relating to decisions and directions and recommendations.

“We give the best advice we can to Father and try to guide him in those instances where he wants us to,” Mark says. “We are involved with preparing and then monitoring the budget. I have to say, our parishioners are exceedingly generous and have been through the years. The budgets tend to be accurate and realistic. Do not misunderstand, however – we are not a bean-counting council. We really look at parish finances and help Father to decide how best to use the funds we have.”

The Pastoral Council meets throughout the year except during the summer months.

“We have come so far during my time on the Council,” says Jack, who has served on the Pastoral Council off and on for almost 10 years. “The current council is very engaged and active. Our meetings are filled with spirited discussions, a real open forum where we look at everything from the view of what is best for the parish and the people of St. Timothy. On a personal level, I have come to realize how important it is to get the younger people in the parish involved. You might say my goal is to get more young people involved as part of what we do. Our focus is largely parish life and outreach.”

In both councils, membership is based upon appointments by the pastor. However, anyone who would like more information on the councils or would like to express interest can contact Fr. Kenneth Malley at 813-968-1077, Finance Council Chair Mark Pope at 260-705-4776, or Pastoral Council President Jack Provenzano at 813-230-3673.

Stewardship and Discipleship Begin With Love

Dear Friends in Christ,

In John 13:35, Jesus says, “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” So many times, the Lord calls us to love one another. This was one of the Gospel readings back in April. On that particular Sunday, Pope Francis gathered with a large group of teenagers, and the whole theme of his homily was built around that message. It is a message that is equally appropriate for all of us, young and old.

Pope Francis is well aware of modern technology and modern communication, especially with how it is so prevalent among today’s youth. He also said in that April homily, “Happiness cannot be bought; it is not an app that you can download on your phones, nor will the latest update bring you freedom and grandeur in love.”

The pope explained that “Love is the Christian’s identity card, the only truly valid ‘document’ that identifies us as followers and disciples of Christ.” Nevertheless, we must work to constantly renew this card, because if it ever expires, we cease being witnesses of the faith. If we are really followers of Christ, then genuine love needs to shine forth in our lives. As Pope Francis said, “Before all else, love is beautiful, and it is the path to happiness.”

Who among us does not want to be happy? We all strive for that, and the Lord gives us a formula for achieving it. It may seem simple on the surface, but we all know how difficult it can be. Love – the kind of love to which we are called by Jesus – is work. Lots of work. It takes effort, renewal, conversion, and persistence.

During his homily, Pope Francis completely captured the essence of stewardship, and of love. He declared, “Look to the Lord, who is never outdone in generosity. We receive so many gifts from Him, and every day we should thank Him... Let me ask you



something. Do you thank the Lord every day? Even if we forget to do so, He never forgets, each day, to give us some special gift. It is not something material and tangible that we can use, but something even greater, a lifelong gift. He offers us His faithful friendship, which He will never take back.”

Gratitude is, of course, at the very basis of stewardship. It is this thankfulness that should inspire us whenever we run up against one of life’s many roadblocks – those things that make it hard for us to love as we should. If we rely on the Lord, we can accomplish this love. As the pope said in closing on that day in April, “Loving in this way, you will be recognized as disciples of Jesus. And your joy will be complete.”

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Kenneth J. Malley".

Rev. Kenneth J. Malley





Hospitality: Reaching Out to O



New Parishioner Welcoming Ministry volunteers – (seated, from left) Marilu Wernock, Marilyn Talmo, Gerri Tenerelli, Fran Shealy; (middle row, from left) Pat Coryell, Kathy Achorn; (back row, from left) Marty Wernock, Don Coryell, Lisa Talmo, Vito Tenerelli (not pictured, Debra Erickson)



Vito Tenerelli, Larry Schinsky and Marty Wernock prepare food for the New Parishioner Welcoming Luncheon.

The Mass is an integral part of our faith, and as a community of believers, it should be our priority to worship together at the celebration of the Eucharist. However, a parish community should extend far beyond the short period of time we spend in Mass each week. Here at St. Timothy, various hospitality ministries work hard to welcome new members of our community, and to foster fellowship among all parishioners, new and old.

“If you want to just go to Mass, you can just go to Mass,” says Nancy Favilla, who coordinates Coffee and Donuts at the parish. “But it’s when you start to get involved and meet other people that you really start to feel like a part of the parish.”

“It’s so great to be a part of the ministries we have here at St. Timothy,” says Marilu Wernock, who coordinates the New Parishioner Welcoming Ministry. “I think the more involved you are with people in the same faith walk as you, the more you grow in your faith.”

On the fourth Sunday of each month, the New Parishioner Welcoming Ministry hosts a luncheon for families and individuals new to St. Timothy. The luncheon is held in the parish hall after the 11 a.m. Mass, and gives newcomers the opportunity to meet others and to see what parish life is all about.

“The new people are all talking to each other, and they all have being new in common,” Marilu says. “We get lunch ready for them, and the Creative Ministry helps us by making these cups with coupons for activities like Bingo or the Pancake Breakfast or the Fish Fry. This is a great way to not only have them come to church, but also to get them involved in the various things we do here.

“We also give them a folder with information about all our different ministries, and we have different speakers each month to talk about the ministries and activities at the parish,” she adds. “So not only do they get pamphlets, they also get to talk to actual people if they have any questions. Hopefully, this will help us continue to move towards the idea of the parish as a community, as a family.”

St. Timothy’s weekly Coffee and Donuts gatherings every Sunday morning are also a great way to build community and make new connections within the parish.

Our Brothers and Sisters in Christ

“We have it every Sunday, except the Sundays that we have Pancake Breakfast,” Nancy says. “We serve year-round after all the morning Masses. It’s a very relaxed atmosphere, and we don’t put any restrictions on how long people can stay or where they need to sit. Also, we have so many people that come, that you always end up sitting at a table with someone else – I really think that helps to get people talking to each other, and meeting new people.”

Forty-seven people serve as volunteers for Coffee and Donuts, and can sign up to help for either the 7:30, 9 or 11 a.m. Mass. Volunteers help set up and replenish food and drink, and also help clean up before they leave. They are also encouraged to go from table to table to introduce themselves, introduce others and strike up a conversation. Families with young children are also encouraged to volunteer – this is an act of service that the whole family can do together.

“We have children as young as 6 who help their mom and dad – with some help, the little ones can serve food and clean tables,” Nancy says. “It only takes a half hour after Mass, and it’s a great way to have kids learn the meaning of service and get to know some new people. I think that service to others is our responsibility, and if it’s taught at an early age, it can come naturally later in life. I think you really get more out of it than you put into it!”

Both Marilu and Nancy have seen firsthand how hospitality can be a game-changer when it comes to fellowship. In one instance, Nancy recalls how reaching out as a volunteer helped open a door for a new parishioner.

“There was one woman who was coming to Coffee and Donuts week after week, and she always came by herself,” she says. “I started talking to her more, and found out that she really just needed someone to talk



Fran Shealy and Gerri Tenerelli prepare kids’ sandwiches for the New Parishioner Welcoming Luncheon.

to. Over time, I’ve seen her talking to more people and sitting with different people, and she looks so much happier now, and I think that’s great!”

Marilu recalls an event where a longtime parishioner reached out to her and her husband, who were new parishioners at the time.

“We’ve been at St. Tim’s for 10 years now, but when we first started coming here after moving from Georgia, we had no family in Florida and didn’t know anyone,” she says. “So we went to a pig roast at the parish, and a couple came over and asked, ‘Can we sit with you?’ It just blossomed from there, and they are the ones that got us involved with different things at the parish. Now, they’re helping me out with the New Parishioner Ministry! So you can see, just by sitting with someone new at a parish event, we made friends and became involved.”

If you would like to reach out to others through a hospitality ministry, this is the place for you! For more information about the New Parishioner Welcoming Ministry, please contact Marilu Wernock at marilu.wernock@gmail.com or 813-746-1541. For more information about Coffee and Donuts, please contact Nancy Favilla at 813-920-3127.

THE TRAITS OF THE CHRISTIAN STEWARD

Each day, we strive to live stewardship in our lives, recognizing our roles as “God’s co-workers” in His creative, redemptive and sanctifying work. But in our quest to live as disciples of Christ, many obstacles often arise.

One of the most prevalent roadblocks in living stewardship is understanding the traits that make up a good Christian steward. Surely, it would be much more convenient if we had some sort of “stewardship profiler” who could lay out the necessary steps to becoming a good steward, like on one of those television crime dramas. Unfortunately, it more often feels like living stewardship is a lifelong journey that we will never fully comprehend.

Fortunately, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ pastoral letter on stewardship, *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, gives some insight into the characteristics that make up a good Christian steward. It may not have the powers of a stewardship “profiler” or “mentalist,” but it certainly gives us some tangible things to think about.

The Christian steward should display some of the following traits:

INSIGHT

Before the disciples could live what we know as the stewardship way of life, they needed a flash of insight, or a certain way of viewing the world and their relationship to it in a fresh light. This “divine grandeur,” more than anything else, is often what sets people on the path to Christian stewardship (*Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, 39).

JOY

Christian stewards are often presented with difficult obstacles, but they should remain joyful in the face of challenges to their lives of stewardship. Like Paul, the good steward is able to say, “I am filled with encouragement, I am overflowing with joy all the more because of all our affliction” (2 Cor. 7:4). Only by serving with a joyful spirit will stewards fully reap the rewards of their service, both in this life and the next.

CONSCIENTIOUSNESS

Stewards are fully conscious of their accountability in sharing of their time, talent and treasure. As caretakers of the gifts that God has given them, they have the opportunity and responsibility to use them to their fullest potential to spread God’s Kingdom on Earth (40).

GENEROSITY

Christian stewards are generous out of love as well as duty. They should display a desire to share with and care for others based on the sacramental graces they have received. And they are also cognizant of the many warnings that the New Testament presents to those who fail in charity and authentic love (40).

Indeed, living as a Christian steward is a lifelong journey with many ups and downs along the way. But if we strive to consciously incorporate each of these characteristics into our giving of time, talent and treasure, we will find that the profile of a good Christian steward will become much clearer with each experience of service.

Working Together as a Community to Educate Our Children

The Catholic Church regards parents as the primary educators of their children in the faith. However, it is essential for parish communities and religious education programs to provide much needed support for our parents – religious education classes provide children with the same teachings that they hear at home, often reinforcing lessons that are already taking root in their hearts. Classroom settings and community life also allow them opportunities to learn in a “hands-on” way by practicing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

“We’re secondary to parents,” says Pam Burke, parishioner and Coordinator of Religious Education at St. Timothy. “We’re going to nurture and grow what they’re already teaching them. We help tie in the community aspect of faith and what we can do for not only our church family but the larger community we live in, as well.”

“It’s really important that they learn about their faith as they’re growing up so that it becomes part of their routine and part of their life,” says Peggy Cloutier, parishioner and Director of Faith Formation. “They need to know that they should grow in the knowledge of their faith just like all other things in life. Our classes help support parents as they teach their children about faith and how to treat other people.”

This upcoming year, parents can look forward to a great group of catechists returning to teach our youth. Pam explains that returning catechists are “excited about their faith and are committed to providing a quality faith program for kids.” Working to meet the needs of all parish children, the Religious Education program is excited to launch its new classroom for special needs children.

“We have children who may have special needs and are in regular classroom settings, but we want to serve everyone

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“Parents are encouraged to help so that the children can see we’re all one big family. The more time spent helping and volunteering, the more your faith grows, as well, and this is the best example for our children!” – Pam Burke



Catechist Debbie Cagnina with her kindergarten class.



Children learn about the sacraments through retreats and classroom teaching.



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Working Together as a Community to Educate Our Children *continued from page 7*

how they need to be served,” Peggy says. “Adding an extra classroom would allow everyone to receive the sacramental preparation and faith formation that they need, which is our priority.”

There are three sessions offered for our elementary youth – Sunday morning, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. for grades K-5; Monday evening, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. for grades K-5; and Monday evening from 6 to 7 p.m. for grades 1-5. Our Middle School program (grades 6-8) takes place on Wednesday eve-

nings from 6:45 to 8:15 p.m. Lastly, our High School Program STYL, or St. Timothy’s Youth League, is for students in grades 9-12 on Sunday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

“Parents are encouraged to help so that the children can see we’re all one big family,” Pam says. “The more time spent helping and volunteering, the more your faith grows, as well, and this is the best example for our children!”

If you have not yet registered your children for this upcoming year’s programs, please take the time to do so today! If you would like to get involved in the program, please contact Peggy Cloutier or Pam Burke at 813-961-1716. Plenty of volunteers are needed to help as catechists, hallway monitors or classroom assistants.

• **Mass Schedule** •

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 p.m. • Sunday: 7:30, 9, 11 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. • Daily: Mon-Sat 9 a.m., Wed 6:15 p.m. • Holy Days: 9 a.m. & 7 p.m. Vigil: 7 p.m.