

May 24, 2010

“Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” –Matthew 7:7

Dearest brothers and sisters,

When you think of the word “stewardship,” what comes to mind? Maybe you think about your regular Sunday offering or the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, or maybe you think about the Hole in One Tournament or a school fundraiser. Those are all good things, but real Christian stewardship is so much more.

With the arrival of Pentecost this year, we invite you to think of stewardship in a new, more all-encompassing way. Stewardship is the response of Christian disciples in every area of their lives. Stewardship is not just bringing your offering to Mass on Sunday, though that is certainly part of it. But it is more than that. Much more.

Stewardship is really about having an “attitude of gratitude” every day, recognizing that everything we have, everything we are, everything we experience, is a gift from God. And fostering a healthy attitude of gratitude begins with prayer.

As you heard at Mass on Pentecost Sunday, the Holy Spirit has truly been set loose on the Church. And if that is true, then Pentecost is only the beginning. God has great things in store for us, for our parish, for our families, and for the whole Church.

We are inviting all parishioners to take part in a deliberate, intentional campaign to foster real prayer and devotion in the parish. We are inviting everyone to make a commitment to prayer and acts of penance, for the sake of the parish, for the sake of our diocese, and for the sake of our one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

Enclosed you will find a brochure that refers to various places in the Scripture that speak of the importance of prayer, and also 3 prayer commitment cards. We invite you and the members of your family to make a serious commitment to prayer, and then write that commitment on a card. On the back of the commitment cards are some suggestions:

- The Rosary (yourself or as a family)
- Morning / Night Prayer
- Daily Mass
- Scripture Reading
- Visiting the Blessed Sacrament
- Fasting

and many other ways to live out your commitment to prayer.

(continued on reverse)

Just bring these cards back to Mass with you next Sunday and include them with your regular Sunday offering.

In the weeks to come, you can read in the bulletin ongoing updates about the numbers and kinds of prayer commitments people just like you have been making in our parish, along with testimonials from people explaining how a commitment to prayer is impacting their lives.

We hope you will join us in this different kind of stewardship campaign. As Jesus tells us, we just need to ask, seek, and knock.

Yours in Christ,

Msgr. John McArthur  
Pastor

Fr. Saji Ellickal  
Associate Pastor

Fr. Dennis Schenkel  
Associate Pastor