

Parish Stewardship Update

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Stewardship: Recognized in Long-Term Commitment

Submitted by Marlene Erdman, Food Pantry Coordinator, Holy Angels, Aurora

Holy Angels Food Pantry was developed in 1972 by the Monday Night Prayer Group, St. Anne's Society and other concerned parishioners. The Pantry's role was to respond to emergency food requests coming to the parish as a result of the poverty in the Aurora area. It was originally a small food closet at the Religious Education Center.

Today, the Pantry is located in a house across the street from our school and is staffed by 85 parish volunteers. We are now open four mornings a week to serve those in need and fulfill our mission which is rooted in Jesus' call to love of neighbor and his response to the problem of hunger. "Give them some food yourselves." (Mark 6:37)

Our pantry exists in part because of the monetary and food donations given by our parishioners and their children. Last year we served over 1400 families, which was a 25% increase over the previous year. We were also able to participate in the Holiday Hopes, a community program, sponsored by area agencies at Christmas for needy families. With the help of our local Catholic high schools we were able to provide 700 food boxes to help brighten the holidays for those in need.

With the support of our religious leaders, we are truly blessed to have such a caring parish community and dedicated volunteers who are willing to give of their time, treasure, and talent.

Please submit stories about how stewardship efforts have been working in your parish and I will share the information in this newsletter. Let me know if you want to be recognized as the individual who submits the story. I will also respect the decision to remain anonymous. Write, fax, or e-mail your story. I will retain the message and edit only as necessary. Thanks!

*In The
Spirit Of
Giving...*



Summary of the Diocese of Rockford Stewardship efforts for 2001

Eight Characteristics of a Stewardship Parish

Summary Report
2001

1. **Stewardship Commission**
 - 57 commissions or advocates
2. **On-going Education**
 - 85 parishes
3. **Treasure Renewal**
 - 60 parishes total
 - 13 combined with the Diocesan Stewardship Appeal in 2000
4. **Time & Talent Renewal**
 - 64 parishes
5. **No Parish Second Collections**
 - 59 parishes
6. **Parish Tithes**
 - 59 parishes
 - Range from 1% to 10%
7. **Capital Projects**
 - All parishes incorporated in United in Faith Campaign
8. **Planned Giving**
 - 94 parishes have Foundation Accounts
 - 6 wills/estate planning seminars
 - 21 parishes have group or individual promoting planned giving

Continuing our Lenten journey...

As we continue our Lenten prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and other spiritual exercises designed to help us focus on the liturgical season, let's remember God the Father who allowed Jesus to teach us about simple living. While visiting St. Joseph parish in Elgin, I found a copy of this prayer inserted in all of their chapel missalettes:

Prayer for Generosity



Lord, teach me to be generous as You have been generous to me. Teach me that all I am and all I have are gifts from You. I know that gifts are meant to be shared. Show me the joys of generosity. Help me to understand that others, perhaps unknown to me, depend on me for help. Remind me that my world and my parish need good samaritans to heal the wounds of our times. Make me a gift to others in Your name.

Amen.

Oración por la Generosidad

Señor, enséñame a ser generoso, como Tu has sido generoso conmigo. Enséñame que todo lo que soy y todo lo que tengo son regalos de Tu parte. Yo se que los regalos son para ser compartidos. Muéstrame el júbilo de la generosidad. Ayúdame a entender que otros, tal vez desconocidos para me, dependen de me ayuda. Recuérdame que me mundo y mi parroquia necesitan buenos samaritanos para aliviar las heridas de nuestros tiempos. Hazme un regalo para otros en Tu nombre.

Amen.

