



Dear brothers and sisters, we continue to invite you to reflect on how God has blessed you and to consider your response to His blessings through your gift of time, talent, and treasure. We write to you today to ask you to make a prayerful stewardship commitment to our parish.

We would like to thank those who have been generous in supporting the parish in her mission. Thank you all so very much, we greatly appreciate your prayer for the parish, your service in so many ways, and your financial contributions to keep the parish running and moving forward.

This year you will notice that we have a budget deficit. The main reason this is coming to light is that there is a need to provide more support for the Catholic Education Center (CEC). Holy Cross Catholic School has been asked through the years to fund maintenance of the CEC. The issue we are running into though is the maintenance expenses have been rising while enrollment has gone down. (Although enrollment went up this year!!) When we combine these things with the fact that the subsidy that the three parishes contribute to the school of \$233,000 has not increased since 2009 and has hovered around this amount since 2002, it becomes clear there is need for more support.

Please note that the increase supports not just Holy Cross school, but also other groups that use the CEC, including Religious Education on Wednesday nights, RCIA, and the youth group, all so important in the fulfillment of our mission.

We use the words time, talent, and treasure, yet another way to capture being a good steward is through prayer, participation, and generosity. For being a good steward begins with prayer, discerning how God is calling us to use our gifts and resources. The reason we want to use our gifts as God desires is that everything that we have has been given us by God. This includes even our ability to work. There are many ministries in the parish in which we are looking for volunteers, including Maintenance, Liturgical Ministries, Fundraisers and our Adoration Chapel is still in need of more adorers. See the enclosed Stewardship Commitment Form for 2017/2018 for more information and to sign up. Please return your completed Form in the collection basket at Mass, complete the form online at [www.stncc.net/Stewardship](http://www.stncc.net/Stewardship) or by mail by Friday, October 20, 2017.

Ultimately brothers and sisters, we have an opportunity to support the parish mission and Catholic education in a world that really is in need of the Gospel message of Truth and Love. Your support helps us continue as a parish the numerous wonderful ministries that help make the name of Jesus known and loved.

So, brothers and sisters, we would encourage everyone to take some time and pray. Ask God how He would like you to support the parish. Allow the silent prayer and discernment to lead to action.

Thank you and God bless you!!

Your Stewardship Committee,

Fr. Barnes

Pat Berry