

## *Stewardship at St. Thomas More*

Here at St. Thomas More, our stewardship program is a three-phase approach which reminds us of the importance of sharing our gifts all throughout the year. Implemented in 2005, our three-phase effort begins each Advent with the *Stewardship of Prayer*. As Catholics, prayer is the foundation of our faith upon which our lives, our relationship with God, and all other forms of stewardship are built. The Stewardship of Prayer reminds us to keep prayer a priority in our busy, crowded lives. During this time we are asked to make a personal commitment for the next year to increase our prayer lives through a variety of prayer opportunities, both personal and communal. Copies of our annual prayer pamphlet are available in the Gathering Space.

During Lent, our parish focuses on the *Stewardship of Giving* phase. Why focus on giving at this time? Our fiscal year begins ends on June 30 and a new one begins on July 1 of each year. We must begin the task of preparing our budgets as we strive to take care of both spiritual and material needs of our parish. Not only is parishioner support essential for the success of our many ministries and services, but it is also important to our day-to-day operations. Like our households, our church incurs considerable, ongoing expenses for utilities, repair, and maintenance of our lovely church and facilities. Your financial support keeps St. Thomas More Church a vital parish which continues to offer beautiful, meaningful liturgies, outreach programs, youth programs, and a wide variety of ministry opportunities for almost every age. Everyone must discern for themselves the appropriate level of giving--your offering is a wonderful opportunity to give back to the Lord and to our parish. Know that your generous annual offering is deeply appreciated and essential for the needs of St. Thomas More Parish now and into the future.

In late summer, our *Stewardship of Ministry* campaign takes place. Parishioners are asked to review a variety of liturgical and non-liturgical ministry opportunities and select those which match their talents and gifts. Anyone who has served as a volunteer knows the rich rewards reaped from the act of caring for others. Whether you are in a time of your life where you feel busy and pulled in many directions or have extra time on your hands, there is a ministry for you here at St. Thomas More. Take some time to observe all the happenings in our parish--read the bulletin, browse the website, and observe the many events that take place in our parish on a weekly basis. We're a busy church! All of these great programs and ministries need great volunteers to help them run smoothly and successfully. If you are a parish volunteer, we thank you and appreciate you! If you do not currently serve in ministry, consider prayerfully the talents you have to offer and make a commitment to serve in ministry. Through serving our parish and community, we also serve the Lord.

Stewardship is not a burden or task to be endured. It is an opportunity, a need on the part of the *giver* to give back a portion of the abundant blessings God has bestowed upon us. Stewardship is a way of life to be embraced all year through.

*Please feel free to contact the Parish Office at 534-9000 if you have any questions.*