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Companions on the Journey

September 18, 2022

Dear Friends in Christ,

Today is Stewardship Sunday. Each year we take a few moments to do some pondering and reflecting. What is the Lord asking of me? What is my best way of placing myself at the Lord's disposal—with my time, with my responsibilities and with the use of my skills, my affection, my talents, my resources, my interests? What kind of steward am I with all that the Lord has entrusted to me? Do I think that all I have, has actually been entrusted to me by God? Does that thought cross my mind?

Or am I more likely to assume the reality of such things, presume to be more conscious of what I am hoping for myself and my family, for my spouse and my children, for my other relationships and my livelihood? Do I bother to ask the question in my prayer? "Lord, what do you want of me in these various situations? What do you desire to give to me, bestow upon me? Lord where am I offending you and stand in need of your forgiveness? Lord, where can I be a little more selfless with my time and interests and money; and a little more generous as you were so generous with all of us in your life?"

Because today is Stewardship Sunday each year I provide a report to the parish concerning our financials for the past Fiscal Year. For all the parishes in the Archdiocese our Fiscal Year begins July 1 and runs until the following June 30. So, what I am reporting on is how we did last year, ending this past June 30. Try to remember that you are seeing numbers that came beginning two summers ago in the height of the pandemic. As a parish we finished in the black and for that I am thankful. You have been most generous in sustaining our parish ministries. We also received some assistance from the Federal Government and from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania especially for our parish Child Care and Prekindergarten programs. I am grateful for these monies. They made a great deal of difference to us in enabling us to keep our doors open and our employees on payroll without having to lay off anyone.

Another blessing was that we have finally gotten our mortgage under the one-million-dollar mark. When we first took on the mortgage debt of \$3,215,000 from the Archdiocesan Trust Fund Loan Department, I realized that the note was to be paid off over twenty-five years. The annual amount of money to service this mortgage debt is about \$250,000 (principal and interest combined). The mortgage runs from 2005 until 2030. We have not missed a payment and that is a sign of your ongoing fidelity and reliability.

On another matter of importance, we received word last week that the enhancements to our Sound System will be installed the last week in October of this year. You provided the parish with sufficient funds to do this in last year's Jubilee Fund request. The supply chain issues have finally been resolved and the work can now take place. (Halleluia!) This year's Jubilee Fund has enabled us to have an active summer. The cleaning of the exterior of the building is almost finished. The Paduan Room has been cleared out and we are awaiting permits from the Borough to build a shed for the items presently stored in the garage. This will enable us to move onto make the necessary enhancements to the inside of the Paduan Room and to create a Chapel of Perpetual Adoration in what formerly the garage. This will be a small chapel. Eighteen feet deep and twelve feet wide. But it will provide an opportunity for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament for all who desire to do so. There will be more information coming later in the year as we draw near to opening and dedicating the Chapel about how a person can gain entry. Here too many items have been ordered and we will have to wait for their arrival, but all will be accomplished in a timely fashion. God is so good. All the time. And his people are so good too. All the time. I thank you for being such a blessing to me as your pastor.

Peace,

Msgr. McHenry