

November 10, 2008

My Fellow Parishioners,

Last year we instituted the Parish Offertory Program. I am deeply grateful to all who prayerfully heeded the call to examine their weekly giving. We began this process because many parish leaders had been telling Bishop Foys that parish income was a constant concern. In addition, the Bishop had been consulting with the Diocesan Finance Council to determine how the priorities spelled out by the Synod could be funded and how to insure the long term financial stability of Diocesan ministries and services. It became very clear that any effort to raise additional funds for the Diocese must also benefit the parishes.

In 2007, Bishop Foys held a series of meetings with Pastors and Parish Life Collaborators. Upon their agreement, additional meetings were held with lay leaders representing all parishes. At these meetings, the process of implementing an Offertory Program was explained.

All parishes are participating in the Offertory Program for a five year period. Last year and this year, any offertory income increases will be split 50-50 with the Diocese. After this year's program, the Diocesan share will be frozen and parishes will receive 100% of the increases experienced in the third, fourth and fifth years. Part of the offertory increase that we will be sharing with the Diocese will be used to initiate ministries and services that are priorities of our Synod. However, the goal is to put as much money as possible into a Diocesan Investment Trust. The earnings from this fund will provide a solid base of ongoing funding for Diocesan ministries and projects.

Now, Parish Finance Committee members and I are again asking our parishioners to reflect upon their financial commitments for the coming year. At all Masses on the weekend of November 15 & 16, we will ask each parish household to make a specific commitment to weekly offertory giving. The activities on that weekend, and the follow-up process to contact those who do not respond, will stress the necessity of having every parishioner contribute regularly, using envelopes.

Remember this annual process does not ask for a specific increase in giving. Rather, it asks each of us to consider **all** of the gifts that God has given to us, not just the financial gifts but also, our lives, our families, all that we are and all that we have. Then, each of us must decide if what we return each weekend is enough, too much or not enough to express our gratitude to our God. Based upon that prayerful reflection, each of us should then decide whether to increase, decrease or continue the commitment we are currently making. I hope that each of you will respond to this request with charity and love and accept the call to reflect upon whether your financial gifts represent an adequate thanksgiving for the many blessings God has bestowed upon you.

If you have any questions about our program or our parish budget, please call the parish office and I will be happy to talk with you. May God continue to fill your life with his Abundant graces.

Prayerfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Richard Bolte".

Rev. Richard Bolte, Pastor

CONTRIBUTIONS OF TREASURE CURRENT OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

Envelopes are sent out to 1348 households each month. Throughout the year, approximately 1231 households use envelopes, with an additional 135 opting for EFT (electronic fund transfer) or credit card payments. An analysis of offertory over the last nine months showed that 108 households gave less than \$1 per week, and 391 households either did not give at all or did not do so using envelopes.

The giving pattern of our parish for an average Sunday is shown in the following chart.

**AVERAGE WEEKLY CONTRIBUTION BY NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS
JANUARY 1, 2008 THROUGH September 30, 2008**

Number of Households	Amount Per Week
525	Less than \$1/week
202	\$ 1-5/week
164	\$ 6-10/week
119	\$ 11-15/week
76	\$ 16-20/week
315	\$ 21-50 week
60	\$ 51-75/week
59	\$76-150/week
17	More than \$151/week

I ask that every parishioner consider the gifts that God has given to him or her. Then, compare those to the amount that you return in gratitude for those gifts.

Reflect on your spending on items such as fast food, movie attendance or rental, going out to dinner, etc. Think about the ratio of these expenditures to your support of our parish. A look at the above chart will indicate that the average St. Timothy's parishioner probably spends more in a week on pizza than on assisting in the mission of our parish.

Ask yourself if the portion of your income that you give to the work of the Lord is enough, too much, or not enough. Look at the sample of the commitment card that is on the last page of this brochure. Then, decide what amount you will indicate, when you receive the card for your household, at Mass this weekend.

Without receiving a commitment card from each household, we have no way to predict our annual income. It is our firm belief that through sound planning, we can avoid any financial crisis and preserve our parish's well being now and in the years to come. We pray that parishioners will carefully review the chart above and the succeeding pages of this brochure and will respond generously.

ST. TIMOTHY'S PARISH
ESTIMATED BUDGET
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008- 09
(JULY 1, 2008 TO JUNE 30, 2009)

Expenses

Pastoral Services & Admin/Worship (Including Clergy, Religious and Lay Salaries, Auto, Ongoing Ed., FICA, Health Ins., Office Supplies/Equip., Stewardship, Mass Fundamentals, Liturgy, Communications expense: Companion, etc)	\$228,853
Tuition Payable to St. Paul	\$812,249
Tuition Subsidy to St. Paul	\$137,875
Education (Education director's salaries & benefits, Adult Formation, PSR, Nursery, Youth Formation, Sunday Preschool, CLOW, VBS)	\$101,795
Pre-School Start-Up (Director salary/benefits, Construction modifications, Purchase of equipment/supplies, all prep needs to open pre-school)	\$(20,650)
Outreach (Director salary/benefits, Families for Life, service agency outreach, Tithing, Evangelization, Bereavement, Network of Care)	\$ 67,961
Rectory/Plant/School Operations & Maintenance (Maintenance salary/benefits, Utilities, Cleaning, Contracted Services, Supplies)	\$184,036
Assessments (Diocesan and Secondary School)	\$331,662
Other/Interest (Interest on loans, Even Exchange Checks)	\$ 10,400
Capital Expense (Buildings & Land, Signs, Landscaping, Equipment, Furniture & Fixtures (Over \$1,000))	\$322,452
Diocesan Collections	\$ 32,539
MORTGAGE PAYMENT: (7/1/08 THROUGH 6/30/09)	\$259,196
TOTAL PARISH DISBURSEMENTS FY 2007-08 (7/1/07 - 6/30/08)	<u>\$2,468,368</u>
Income (Budget - Est.)	
Envelopes, Loose and Holy Day Collections (Based on FY 07-08)	\$1,558,083
Tuition Receipts (St. Paul)	\$ 674,374
Other Receipts (Investment Income, Church Bulletin)	\$ 9,396
Non-Revenue & Restricted Funds Receipts (Subsidy from Diocese, Specified Donations, Mass Stipends, Parish Tithe)	\$ 110,037
Diocesan Collections	\$ 32,539
TOTAL RECEIPTS:	<u>\$2,384,429</u>
Net Excess (Deficit)	(\$ 83,939)
Assumed Fund-Raising Receipts (Oktoberfest, Chicken Dinner, Harvest Hoedown, Fish Fry, Golf Outing, Adult Dinner Dance)	\$ 97,420
INCOME FY 2008-09:	\$13,481

COMMITMENT WEEKEND

At all masses this weekend you will be asked to indicate the amount that you wish to give weekly. If you give monthly, quarterly, etc., please indicate the average weekly amount of that gift. A sample of the offertory commitment card is shown at the bottom of this page.

Please carefully consider the gifts that God has given you and contribute part of them to help with the work of the parish. Come prepared to complete the commitment card that will be provided. **If you change the amount that you give, please begin giving the new amount by January 1, 2009.**

HOW MUCH SHOULD WE GIVE?

Many people ask whether or not there is a standard for giving. Each person, or family, must arrive at that conclusion independently. However, the following scale is provided in order to serve as a guide for those that are interested in using it.

Suggested Weekly Offering			
Annual Family Income	4.0%	3.0%	2.0%
\$15,000	12.00	9.00	6.00
\$30,000	24.00	18.00	12.00
\$50,000	39.00	29.00	20.00
\$75,000	58.00	44.00	29.00
\$100,000	77.00	58.00	39.00
\$150,000	116.00	87.00	58.00
\$200,000	154.00	116.00	77.00

Following is a sample of the card that you will receive at mass this weekend. Please determine which member of your household will complete the card and what your commitment will be before coming to church.

Sample Offertory Commitment Card Commitment of Treasure

"GIVE TO THE MOST HIGH AS HE HAS GIVEN TO YOU, GENEROUSLY, ACCORDING TO YOUR MEANS, FOR THE LORD IS ONE WHO ALWAYS REPAYS, AND HE WILL GIVE BACK TO YOU SEVENFOLD." SIRACH 35:9-10

I understand that St. Timothy's Church is asking all parishioners to review the amount that they give to the parish offertory and to determine whether that amount is enough, too much, or not enough. My/Our new average commitment per week for the next 12 months is:

\$200.00 \$150.00 \$100.00 \$75.00 \$60.00 \$50.00 \$40.00 \$30.00 Other \$ _____

SAMPLE ONLY