



From the
Pastor



First-Fruits Sunday/Commitment Sunday

The goal of our life is holiness, and stewardship is the practical way to get there. So, when we live as good stewards, we are living holy lives. Holiness means being close to the Lord, being close to His church, being close to its mission—open to God’s Word and open to the Sacraments. We have been reflecting in the past few weeks on how we could be better stewards of God’s blessings. I hope these reflections have helped you to bring God a little more to the front and center of your lives. After having reflected on stewardship, we have now come to the First-Fruits Weekend/Commitment Weekend. It is now time to tell the Lord and His Church how you plan to live as good stewards, and use the material blessings that God has blessed you with.

If you have not brought with you your commitment envelope, please take some time to mail it or bring it to the Parish Office, or drop it in the offertory basket next week. If you have not received it in the mail, we have them available in the narthex of both churches as well as at the Office. We would love to hear from all of you as soon as possible so that we can finalize our budget for next year. There are many of you who make generous sacrifices for the Church. Your reward will be great in Heaven. We are living at an exciting time in the history of St. Francis, and I am sure that you want to be part of this journey forward—just as I am. It is time to leave the past and move forward. As some of you might know, 10 percent of what you give to the Parish goes to the Diocese as PAC, which is the standard operating procedure for any diocese. But every dollar you give toward the debt goes to the debt. Therefore, it is important that you make separate checks/contributions toward the operating expenses of the parish (Funding the Future) and the debt retirement (Fulfilling the Past).

Thanks a lot to Kevin Friehofer and Deacon Steve for co-chairing the campaign committee. My appreciation and thanks also to Paul and Cathy Imwalle and the rest of the members of the committee, those who attended the meetings, and those who worked so diligently for the campaign. You all worked hard right from the get-go. Your positive approach and enthusiasm were inspiring. My special thanks to Dan and Kristine McLean for sharing with us how you live a life of stewardship. Thanks to those of you who have already made pledges/contributions big and small. Your sacrifices are much appreciated. Thanks for all your support toward what God wants to accomplish in St. Francis through you.

—Father Jose