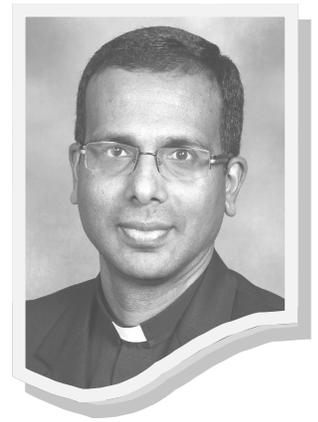
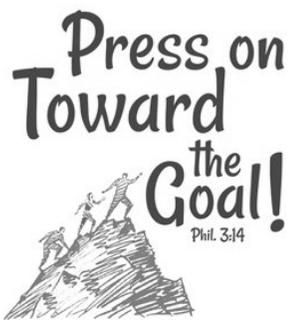




From the Pastor



Part 3: Becoming Intentional Disciples— *Press on Toward the Goal (Phil 3:14)*



Stewardship is about living and using the gifts that God has given to each of us. It is about being the Church today in the 21st Century. We need to stop “doing” the Church and start “being”

the Church. A Church congregation can be divided into three groups:

The first group of people is the **Engaged**. Studies have shown repeatedly that, in general, only 16% of the people are engaged in the Church. These 16% do all the work. These are the people who show up for every event in the Church. They give 5% of their income which accounts for 40% of the Church’s financial need.

The second group of people is the **Not Engaged**. They are 49% of the parishioners. These 49% are more or less regularly at Sunday Mass but will not be there for anything else. They contribute 2% of their income to the church.

The third category of people every Church will have is the **Actively Disengaged** group. This group makes up 35% of the parishioners and can be subdivided into two more groups: those who show up a couple of times a year, and those who are dissatisfied, and find more things to complain about than the positive.

They give less than 1% of their income or nothing at all to the Church.

I am happy about those who come to Church maybe only about a couple of times a year because they still feel connected to the Church. However, becoming good stewards means becoming part of the engaged group of people.

Our goal is to raise the percentage of people who are engaged. We do not want 16% of the parishioners doing the work of all the rest. By embracing stewardship, we are challenged to become members who contribute to the growth of the church rather than those who merely benefit from others’ sacrifices.

We have an amazing Catholic community here in Bend. Let us become a model community. It is not difficult. All you need to do is to respond positively to the call to be good Christian stewards—putting God first, loving Him with all your heart, mind, and soul. We are asked to love God more than we love material possessions. We are asked to give God more than what we spend in movie theaters, Starbucks, or on drinks, internet, television, Netflix, or smart phones. In a society that encourages us to constantly buy and think of ourselves, God is asking us to give and think of others. Therefore, to succeed as stewards, we need faith and commitment.

—Fr. Jose Thomas Mudakodiyil