

# PASTOR'S LETTER



## Greetings!

School at Blessed Sacrament is well underway and everyone is really excited about the great potential of this new year. So many people have offered their assistance and resources to get this school year off to a good start. We are blessed with numerous great stewards at Blessed Sacrament Parish.

Speaking of education and stewards, this might be a great opportunity to begin some reflections upon the meaning of stewardship as a way of discipleship in the life of the Christian faithful. In my subsequent pastoral reflections I would like to treat some of the foundational matters constituting the stewardship way of life.

I believe that the time is ripe for such a reflection. It seems that many people misunderstand the nature and purpose of stewardship. Unfortunately, at times stewardship has evolved into a euphemism for contributing money to the parish. At other times, stewardship has become a synonym for tithing. Although contributing money to the parish and tithing are essential to the stewardship way of life, stewardship can't be reduced to money or even giving in general. Such a reduction would be the equivalent to identifying fatherhood with earning money for the family. If a father-or even a mother-saw his/her role as merely a wage earner, the family would suffer greatly.

The first consideration of the stewardship way of life is to define a steward. The United States Conference of Bishops (USCCB) describes the steward as *"one who receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends to them in a responsible manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord."* This is certainly a mouthful and each clause of this description deserves careful consideration.

A steward is *"one who receives God's gifts gratefully."* The first clause of the USCCB's articulation of a steward is not an innovative notion. *"Receiving God's gifts"* is a theme that permeates the scriptures. Consider Jesus' parable of the talents. Three servants receive talents that they are responsible for investing. The key word is received. The individuals had nothing of their own. What they had was given to them. Many other passages in Scripture directly express the generosity of the Heavenly Father through the gifts given to His adopted sons and daughters—us. Think of St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians. In I Cor. 4:7, St. Paul questions the community at Corinth, *"What do you possess that you have not received? But if you have received it, why are you boasting as if you did not receive it."* Furthermore, Jesus himself tells his disciples not to worry because God will provide everything that they need. His gifts are abundant and he is generous in bestowing them. Jesus states in Mt. 6, *"Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sew or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not more important than they."* Even the animals receive abundant gifts from the Lord. In light of this truth, Jesus not only confirms the gifts given by God in the present, but assures their abundance for the future.

Recognizing God's gifts is of supreme importance in the life of the Christian and, consequently, when embracing the stewardship way of life. In my next reflection, I will take a look at some examples of how the theme of receiving God's gifts is a hallmark notion in the lives of the Saints and within the liturgical worship of the Church. As a point of prayer, I would recommend

praying with the scripture passages mentioned above. After meditating on a passage, ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten you regarding your many and unique gifts. Let the Lord surprise you. It is one thing to have good things such as talents and wealth, it is quite another to recognize these goods things as gifts from a generous Father in Heaven.

*Ad majorem Dei gloriam (All for the Greater glory of God), Fr. Jirak*

## TREASURE WEEKLY COLLECTION REPORT

### August 17, 2010 to August 23, 2010

Collection:	\$43,581.41
Budget:	52,953.85
Surplus (Deficit):	\$(9,372.44)



### YTD July 1, 2010 to August 23, 2010

Collection:	\$367,451.39
Budget:	408,501.10
Surplus (Deficit):	\$(41,049.71)



# PRAYER

## IN MEMORIAM

*Jerrold Richmond,*  
brother-in-law of Dave & Dee Ziegert, of our parish

Sue Foley, Joanie Riordan, Jo Fowler, Louise Swiler, Rita Perkins, Rhonda Thomas, Florine Gilligan, Mari Ferlini, Herman Bachrodt, Cheryl Pendarvis, Wayne A. Bodine, Rose Herman, Karen Wagle, Elinore Hope, Darlene Peterson, Bill Drummond, Nancy Hittner, Zita May, Everett Racine, Dorothy Lynch, Cynthia Anne Racine

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**SICK** Joe Swiler, Natalie Hays, Vaughn Eldon Marshall, Ursula Metsker, Debbie Mitchell, Nancy Hornback, Therese Wagle Christian, Kathy Wyatt, Morris Perkins, Peggy & J.T. McKenzie, Joan Wright, Rita McKenzie, Izzy Calmar, Msgr. James Halpine, Dolores Grass, Wanda Baker, Ann Schwenker, Preston Deschaine, Barbara Cunningham, Mercedes Wright, Mary Ann Dunlap, Clark Kennedy, Jill Masey, Loretta Higgins, Fr. John Lanzreth, Ferd Volz

**MILITARY** James Beda, Nate Clark, Brian Coltrane, David Garon, Zach Kizer, Vincent Linder, Crystal Maxton, Peter McGee, Patrick O'Reilly, Aaron Schaffer, Gary Schaffer Jr, John Joseph Schaffer, Lawrence Schutz, Kendall Tipton, Olga Tipton, Paul Kuchinskas, Jason Pomeroy

## PERPETUAL ADORATION

**TO ALL PARISHIONERS:** *Extra time on your hands now that the kids are back in school? Many partner hours are available. Come pray for the spiritual and temporal needs of your children. Or simply use the time to adore Our Precious Lord. Jesus waits for you in the Adoration Chapel! The hours with special needs are as follows:*

**SUNDAY: JOHN HAMMANS, 684.8384**

URGENT: 2 PERSONS 11am-12pm

**MONDAY: JANET JOHNSON, 687.5397**

URGENT: 2 PERSONS 12pm-1pm

Partner 6-7pm

**TUESDAY: MARY TREINEN, 687.6636**

URGENT: 2 PERSONS 11am-12pm

Partner 7-8am; 9-10am; 3-4pm; 11pm-12am

**WEDNESDAY: MARY SUE WRIGHT, 684.8467**

URGENT: Partner 7-8am; 2-3pm; 5-6pm; 7-8pm

**THURSDAY: ROSE KUHLMAN, 689.0126**

URGENT: Partner 1-2am; 2-3am; 3-4am

**FRIDAY: PEGGY SUNIGA, 686.4920**

URGENT: 2 PERSONS 12pm-1pm; 3-4pm

URGENT: Partner 1-2am; 2-3am; 3-4am; 9-10am; 2-3pm

**SATURDAY: PAT HARTER, 683.6610**

URGENT: Partner: 2-3pm; 3-4pm; 5-6pm; 6-7pm

# SERVICE

## SCHOOL NEWS

### - SIGN-UP FOR SCOUTING -

All 1st-5th grade boys may sign up for cub scouts on **September 1, at 6:30pm in the St. Joseph room.** For more information, please contact Jess Sojka, Pack 515 Cub Master at 393.5871 or [pack515cubmaster@cox.net](mailto:pack515cubmaster@cox.net).

### - TRASH BAG FUNDRAISER -

The 8th Grade Class of Blessed Sacrament School is coordinating the 8th annual TRASH BAG FUNDRAISER. *Last year's class raised over \$10,000 for the school!* Orders will be taken through September 17th! You may ask a student to take your order or just stop by the Parish Office place your order there. Three sizes are available for \$11 per roll. If you have questions, please contact Sarah DeVries (652.0245) or Shelly Breault (640.4283). *Help the students make this a successful fundraiser for our school.*

### DILLON'S CARDS UPDATE!

Blessed Sacrament School recently received a rebate check in the amount of \$1,368.19 for the period of July 11-August 10, 2010. Please reload your Dillon's cards and pass the word around to those who are not using Dillon's cards. Dillon's cards are available at the Parish Office from 8:30am to 4:30pm!

### - ALTAR SERVER TRAINING -

We will hold a group session for all those parishioners in grades 5 through 8 who are interested in being trained as altar servers, along with their parents, on Sunday, September 19, at 12:30 pm in the church. The session will take about one hour and will include an address by our priests, signing of the altar server agreement forms and a run-through of the server's role during the Mass. Further training sessions will be scheduled following the meeting. You may call Julie Zluticky or Fr. Max Biltz at the parish office (682.4557) with any questions.

## GUADALUPE CLINIC

*Thank you!*

*The 2010 Guadalupe Clinic/Wingnut Baseball Benefit was a wonderful success! The stewardship of your parish is helping Guadalupe Clinic provide access to medical care for those in need during these struggling times. On behalf of the patients we serve, thank you and God Bless You All.*

*- The Staff & Board of Guadalupe Clinic, Inc.*

## HOSPITALITY

### MONSIGNOR GILSENAN SCHOLARSHIP

The Men's Club would like to congratulate Sarah Stadler on being the recipient of the 2010 Monsignor John Gilsean Scholarship! Over \$1,500 was raised this year for the scholarship through the poker fundraisers. The Men's Club would also like to thank all the participants in all the poker tournaments and to the people who donate but don't play! Thanks for another successful year.

### LADIES' BOWLING LEAGUE

The Blessed Sacrament Women's Bowling League begins its season on September 9. All women of the parish who are interested in exercise and having a good time are invited to join. You need not be an expert bowler. The League meets every Thursday, except major holidays, at 9:30am at The Alley (Southeast corner of 13th and Greenwich) from September through May. For more information, please contact Berniece Jones at [berniecejones@sbcglobal.net](mailto:berniecejones@sbcglobal.net) or call 243.1842.

### MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit..." Open your hearts wide and let the Holy Spirit fill your marriage/Holy Orders with life and love. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends in Southeast Kansas for 2010 are October 22-24 and November 12-14. You may register by calling Alex and MaryAnn at 682.2616 or visit [www.wwmeks.org](http://www.wwmeks.org).

### ALTAR SOCIETY

The biyearly Holiday Home Tour sponsored by the Altar Society is Saturday, December 4. This special event will be held at four College Hill homes. The new format is for parish members and friends. It promises to be full of holiday ideas and plenty of great food and drink will be served. So save the date for this parish party fun.

### LORD'S DINER

A food handler's class will be offered at Blessed Sacrament Sunday, August 29 from 4-6pm in the Bishops Hall. No fee or registration required.

*Thank you!*

*The family of Pam & Dan Gonzalez would like to gratefully thank the Blessed Sacrament Faculty and Parish for all the kindnesses extended to us at the recent death of our grandmother, Elinore Hope. The attendance at her funeral, the visits, masses, meals, memorials, hospital visits and cards were so appreciated.*  
-- Colby, Corey (Angie), Andrew (Angie) Gonzalez

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

### COMPASSIONATE CARE MINISTRY

The Compassionate Care Ministry recently received a call from a very generous lady who just recovered from hip surgery and is willing to give free to anyone who needs, a slightly used walker, bath bench, tub rail, bath brush (not used) and long handle shoe horn. If you are in need of any of these items, please call JoAnn Robertson at 686.0633.

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

*Saint Vincent de Paul "Friends of the Poor Walk, 2010!"* Let's get our walking shoes on and be friends of the poor! Better yet-get a group together and have a wonderful time getting in shape and helping those within our community.



*You're Invited!*

**What:** St. Vincent de Paul "Friends of the Poor Walk"  
**Where:** Bishop Carroll Catholic High School Track  
**When:** September 25, 2010  
Registration begins at 8:30am  
Walk from 9 am-Noon

Walkers will need a registration form, liability release form, a signed parent or guardian waiver for minors, a walker pledge sheet and a donor receipt page to give to those who pledge. All forms can be obtained from our parish office. All pledges are to be brought to the event. All money will be turned in at that time by each walker. Checks should be made out to Blessed Sacrament St. Vincent de Paul.

REMEMBER: A portion of the funds donated will go towards upcoming medical expenses for a parish family, the Suttons. (John Sutton will be undergoing a kidney transplant soon.) The balance of the funds donated will go to our St. Vincent de Paul Blessed Sacrament Conference, to help those in need within our parish boundaries.

### BRIDGE PLAYERS NEEDED

The mission of the Crisis Bridge Club is to offer fellowship in playing bridge, with the dues donated to the "Crisis Fund" to be expended for emergent needs at the discretion of Fr. Jirak. The bridge club meets every month from fall through spring. Teams are self-arranged and the same team plays during the entire season. Annual dues are \$20 per person for afternoon teams and \$25 per couple for evening teams. So, if you know how to play bridge, want to have some fun, and meet new people, call Jim or Karen Gillenwater at 683.6269 for details.

### PARISH RESOURCE DIRECTORY

**ATTENTION PARISHIONERS!** We are in the process of updating our Parish Resource Directory. Please call the Parish Office (682.4557) with any changes to your name, address, e-mail address, or telephone number.

## FAITH FORMATION

### IN THE BEGINNING . . .

*The miracle of life . . . I can hear mom's conversations more clearly now. I can hear her read, sing and talk. I like to kick back, suck my thumb, and listen to her read to me. My eyelids and eyebrows are fully formed. My fingernails have grown to the end of my fingers. My brain is growing really fast so I'm going to be very smart. I weigh nearly a pound now. Dads, did you know: Low-frequency sounds mimicking a male voice penetrate the abdomen and uterine wall better than the higher frequencies of the female voice?" Teach them (God's ordinances) to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*

### STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

In the Gospel today, Jesus warns us not to give in to hopes of repayment, but to give open-handedly to the poor and needy. That sort of giving mirrors the bountiful giving of God, and Jesus assures us it is blessed indeed!



### DID YOU KNOW?

*The word tithe literally means one tenth of something. Do I give one tenth of my Time, Talent and Treasure back to God?*

### MESSENGER BIBLE STUDY

Persons with disabilities and their families and friends are invited to the first meeting of the year for Messengers Bible Study. The all-city meeting will be held from 7-8pm, Monday, September 13, at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Clare Hall. Weekly Messengers Bible Study will then be held from 7-8pm at both St. Francis of Assisi and Blessed Sacrament parishes starting September 20 and ending April 25, 2011. For more information and any questions, contact Tom Racunas, Ministry with Persons with Disabilities Office at 269.3900 or e-mail at [racunast@CatholicDioceseofWichita.org](mailto:racunast@CatholicDioceseofWichita.org).

### ANNUAL DIOCESAN ANNIVERSARY MASS

The 39th Annual Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, September 12, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. A cordial invitation is extended to couples throughout the Diocese celebrating anniversaries ending in 0 or 5 and to those celebrating more than 50 years of marriage in the year 2010. Holy Mass will be celebrated at 3:30pm by the Most Reverend Michael O. Jackels followed by a reception in the Cathedral Gymnasium hosted by the Office of Family Life and Natural Family Planning. For more information or to register for the Anniversary Mass, please visit [www.CatholicDioceseOfWichita.org](http://www.CatholicDioceseOfWichita.org), select 'Ministries & Offices,' then 'Family Life and NFP' or call our office at 685.5240.

## EWTN BOOKMARK

*Parishioner, Stephanie A. Mann* will appear on EWTN Bookmark, discussing her book *Supremacy and Survival: How Catholics Endured the English Reformation* with Doug Keck. EWTN Bookmark airs at 8:30am Sunday, with repeats at 10:30pm Sunday, 6:00am Monday, and 4:30pm Wednesday. Listen or watch live at <http://www.ewtn.com/audiobooks/index.asp>; more information and podcasts will be available at <http://www.ewtn.com/bookmark>.

### R.C.I.A./P.S.R./ LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

*R.C.I.A. (the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)* is a program for people who are interested in learning about the Catholic faith. Participants come from different backgrounds-some wish to be received into the Catholic Church, while others are simply curious about the Church and want to learn more-and are accompanied by a sponsor who is a member of the parish and will accompany them on their faith-filled journey.

*Classes will begin on Wednesday, September 8, from 7-8:30pm in the Bishops Hall (the basement of the church).* Anyone interested in signing up for the R.C.I.A. program should call Julie Zluticky at the parish office (682.4557) or send an e-mail to [jzluticky@blessedsacramentwichita.com](mailto:jzluticky@blessedsacramentwichita.com) and arrange an appointment to meet with Fr. Jirak or Fr. Biltz in order to be registered for the program.

*P.S.R. (the Parish School of Religion)* is a program of Catholic Formation for students in grades Kindergarten through high school who attend school in a program other than a Catholic grade or high school. Father Max Biltz is the new Director of P.S.R. for Blessed Sacrament and will also serve the program as the lead catechist for the high school students.

*Liturgy of the Word for Children will begin again on Sunday, September 12, during the 9:00 a.m. Mass for preschool age children (3-5 years old).* Please use the P.S.R. registration form to register for this program.

Registration forms are available at the parish office and on the parish website. Father Biltz wishes to strongly encourage all parents of children who are eligible for the programs to enroll soon as *classes will begin Sunday, September 12, from 10-10:50am* in the school building. Please contact Julie Zluticky at the parish office (682.4557) or send an e-mail to [jzluticky@blessedsacramentwichita.com](mailto:jzluticky@blessedsacramentwichita.com) with any questions.

### RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT

A Rachel's Vineyard retreat for women and men struggling with the psychological or spiritual pain of abortion is planned for September 24-26. Rachel's Vineyard is a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. The cost for the weekend is \$30 (limited financial assistance is available to those unable to pay). The retreat is open to all regardless of faith background, residency or ability to pay. To register, please call 269-HOPE (4673) or e-mail [hamptona@CatholicDioceseOfWichita.org](mailto:hamptona@CatholicDioceseOfWichita.org). All communications are kept in loving confidentiality.

# Parish School of Religion

A good Catholic education is a gift that should be available for all Catholic kids. Being able to learn about God should not be reserved only to those who attend Catholic school. Of course there are advantages in attending a school that has Catholicism as its foundation. However, the Church is well aware that many parents are unable to send their children to Catholic school for a variety of reasons. These reasons should be no obstacle for a child's right to learn about the God who loves him/her and has shed his blood for him/her. It is for this purpose (that of teaching our young persons who are unable to attend our Catholic School) that Fr. Jirak and I have decided to revive and revitalize Blessed Sacrament's Parish School of Religion program.

To this end, Fr. Jirak has designated me as the Moderator for the grade school PSR program and chief catechist for the high school PSR program. The grade school program will be using the Catechism of the Good Shepherd curriculum. Doctrine and love of God will be equal focuses for the Grade-school program. If ever a teacher is presented with a question that s/he does not know the answer to, there will be a process in place for these questions to be answered so that children can have any questions they might have about their faith answered in a timely manner. I will teach one class per semester for each grade of the grade school program.

I have also personally designed the high school PSR program which will be heavily based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Bible. The curriculum will also be heavily focused on apologetics, teaching students how to construct well-reasoned arguments in defense of their faith and belief in God. The high school program is designed knowing that high-schoolers will soon be leaving home for college and that they will need to have a solid intellectual foundation for their Catholic faith and identity since college often becomes a challenge for young persons' faith. Elizabeth Ferraro and myself will be sharing the teaching responsibilities of the high school PSR program. We are blessed to have Mrs. Ferraro who teaches theology at Kapaun Mt. Carmel High School.

We invite all parents whose children attend public school or are home-schooled to consider signing up their children for the PSR program. I promise that it will be an exciting and invigorating experience for your children, as they learn both about God and how to love him. The catechists that have volunteered for this project are persons alive with the faith and full of enthusiasm for God and will do their utmost that your children come away from this program with a much deeper and richer knowledge of their Catholic faith than they had previously. Please give the strongest consideration to this program of faith formation that Fr. Jirak and I have so deeply invested in.

You will have an opportunity to sign your child(ren) up for the P.S.R. program after all of the Masses this weekend. Julie Zluticky will be at the Douglas Street entrance after the 5:15pm, 9:00am and 11:00am Masses with registration forms, or you may download one from the parish website [www.blessedsacramentwichita.com](http://www.blessedsacramentwichita.com).