

## Pastor's Column

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### Now Is the Time

Although we celebrate *Stewardship* in the month of November, we are mindful that it is a way of life that is continuously lived. Our very life and the limited time that we spend on Earth is pure gift. Coming to the realization that all is gift is the beginning of real peace and inner joy!

Once we are in that “good place,” we know that we must use the gifts of *time*, *talent*, and *treasure* as our way of giving gratitude and recognition to God for what has been given to us.

The Church of St. Thomas More is that “good place” in which we recognize our identity as Disciples of the Lord Jesus, as the living stones of the Church. It is this connection that nourishes us and strengthens us so that we may continue the Master's Mission and Ministry. Through our *time*, *talent*, and *treasure*, we build up the Church, the Body of Christ, for this time and this place.

Our Faith Community provides many opportunities in which we can, through *time*, *talent*, and *treasure*, gratefully give back to the Lord. I encourage every parishioner, especially in this month of November to discover and choose a ministry so that you can be involved in the life of this community utilizing your *time* and *talent*. It is in “the giving” that we shall receive!

The special challenge that has been before us for the last several years is “*Our Journey Into The Future...Together.*” Our Capital Campaign is raising the needed funds for our permanent Church/Sanctuary, our Administration Building and Youth Center, the already purchased five-acre parcel of additional land, the retirement of our debt, and \$1 million for the Diocesan Secondary Education Initiative.

As we continue to focus on *time* and *talent*, we also call special attention to the gift of our *treasure* in order to ensure that St. Thomas More continues to be that “good place” where the Lord's work continues. And we do so, presently, in the midst of a very difficult economy. We need to maintain a healthy “Operations Budget” as we continue to set money aside for our new Church.

This is an extremely exciting and challenging time! We need to continue to pull together more than we ever have in the past. As the Lord's stewards, giving our *time*, *talent*, and *treasure*, the build-out of the St. Thomas More Parish Campus will soon be a reality.

This weekend we welcome very familiar faces to the ambo—The Rudolph Family: Dave, Patty, Randi, Ellie, Tilly, Emma, and David. This family is a model family of St. Thomas More Parish for other households to emulate and follow. They are active in a variety of ministries and the worship of God is the center of their family life.

I welcome the message that they will share with us. I know they will continue to encourage all of us in our efforts to be more faithful Christian stewards.

May our journey through Christian Stewardship Month strengthen all of us to be more faithful stewards, giving back to God in recognition for all that God has done and continues to do for us.

Remember that the Lord is never outdone in generosity!

F. Mike