



Spirit of Christ Mission

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Pastoral Office: Blessed Trinity Catholic Community

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June 30, 2016

Dear Spirit of Christ Parishioner:

On Tuesday evening, June 21, 2016 over 40 Spirit of Christ parishioners gathered with parish staff and Diocesan representatives (S. Rita McGinnis, Chancery Services Director; Jim Carney, Financial Services Director; and Glenda Seipp, Stewardship Services Director). The purpose of this gathering was to have a conversation regarding the current Spirit of Christ financial challenges.

During the conversation Jim Carney informed us that the Diocese of Helena is offering to generously assist Spirit of Christ in meeting the current fiscal year's (2015/16) shortfall of \$12,000 through a matching grant from the 2015 Annual Catholic Appeal Priest and Parish Emergency Assistance.

- Between July 1, 2016 and October 31, 2016 Spirit of Christ parishioners are invited to raise \$6,000 (only one half of the shortfall). If this amount is raised the Diocese will "double our money" by matching that amount with an additional \$6,000 made available, in part, due to our strong support of the Annual Catholic Appeal.
- Checks made payable to "**Spirit of Christ Matching Fund**" can be given from now until October 31, 2016.

In continuing the conversation Glenda Seipp reminded us that Stewardship can best be described as our ongoing response to God's love for us. In recognizing that everything we have is a gift from God our stewardship is our opportunity to return to the Lord a portion of what we have received. Thankfully, Stewardship Services is able to offer us the following support as we consider our 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 budgets.

- The 2016 Annual Catholic Appeal Priest and Parish Emergency Assistance will fund a \$3,000 Mission Subsidy to supplement the stewardship efforts of Spirit of Christ Mission in calendar year 2017.
- Beginning in January of 2018 and going forward Spirit of Christ will receive \$3,000 in funding from the Committee on the Home Missions for a Mission subsidy.

While this subsidy is joyfully accepted and celebrated it will only supplement the present level of giving so an increase in gifts by approximately \$7,000 annually will be necessary to continue the mission and ministry of Spirit of Christ Mission.

Over > > >

Sister Rita McGinnis emphasized that Spirit of Christ Mission is important to the Diocese of Helena and to Bishop Thomas. The financial support offered from the Diocese is simply a place to start. The future for Spirit of Christ Mission ultimately belongs to us, the people of this parish. We hold the creative solutions that will resolve our current situation.

How might we respond? See the attachment for Stewardship Formation and Steps 1-4.

I will soon appoint a team of Spirit of Christ parishioners, from those names submitted at the meeting, to develop a plan for financial stability. This plan must certainly include an invitation for all members of our mission to commit to offering their financial support in proportion to their means. Bishop Thomas has asked that we submit this plan to him and he has asked Jim, Glenda and S. Rita to meet with us next June, 2017 to celebrate our progress and support us in moving forward.

I am personally grateful to Bishop George Thomas, Sister Rita, Glenda and Jim for their good work among us, their vision and their strong enthusiastic support.

May the "*Spirit of Christ*" continue to guide us and shape our future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fr. Ed Hislop". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Fr. Ed Hislop, Pastor

Attachment: Document presented by Glenda Seipp at parish meeting:
Stewardship Spirituality/Stewardship: Step 1-4

STEP 1:
KNOW WHO YOU
ARE AS INDIVIDUALS
AND AS A PARISH
COMMUNITY.

STEWARDSHIP

We do not GIVE because there is a NEED; we GIVE because we NEED to GIVE. That basic and fundamental principle of Catholic Stewardship flows from the Gospel of Christ which reminds us again and again in varying ways that everything we have is a gift from God: given by God to us, to be given again for the sake of others.

The gift we offer is presented, each Sunday, at the Lord's Table—that gift is (and must be) the "sacrifice we offer" which we ask the Lord to accept. So what we give and how we give and why we give is important—a significant element of our faith and a necessary aspect of our worship. Good Stewardship is a significant decision. We are lovingly invited to give in proportion to what we have—our time, our talent and our financial resources. Some of us already do that, and do it very well with a generous and kind heart. Some of us do the very best we can, even in the midst of financial struggles. We all need to be reminded of how important our gift is to the very life and future of our small faith community, which we have named "Spirit of Christ." Our giving must be done in "the Spirit of Christ!" Fr. Ed Hislop, June 29, 2014

STEP 2:
KNOW WHAT
YOU HAVE TO
WORK WITH.

TIME AND ENGAGEMENT ~ Gallup survey (2001-2005) Statistics applied to Spirit of Christ Mission—60 Families

16% Fully engaged in the life of the parish. (10 families)

49% Not engaged but are waiting to be drawn more deeply into the faith community and through the community to Christ. (30 families)

35% Actively disengaged and possibly negative. (20 families)

STEP 3:
MAKE A
COMMITMENT TO
STEWARDSHIP.

TALENT

Can 40 families sustain Spirit of Christ Mission? The 30 less actively engaged families will need to be personally invited to participate and support alongside the 10 (or more) already engaged families. Invitation, welcome and hospitality will be most important.

BELONGING ~ BELIEF DOES NOT LEAD TO BELONGING, BUT RATHER, BELONGING LEADS TO BELIEF ~ Let me see Jesus in you!

- ◆ Am I of value to the community? Are my gifts needed?
- ◆ Do I know what is expected of me? As a steward? As a member of this parish?

Step 4:
DON'T UNDER-
ESTIMATE GOD'S
INVOLVEMENT IN
YOUR EFFORTS
AND SUCCESS!

TREASURE

What is ideal? 10% Tithe = 5% to my parish, 1% to my Bishop and 4% to other charities whose values reflect my Catholic values.

60 Families X \$30K/year average = \$1.8M X 5% = \$90,000 (\$40K over Budget)

What is possible? Engaged families can commit to increasing the % of their income given over the next 3 years until they reach 5%.

40 Families X \$30K/year average = \$1.2M X 5% = \$60,000 (\$10K over Budget)

What is available? **To complete the 2015/2016 budget shortfall: Matching grant \$5K from the 2015 Annual Catholic Appeal.**

Matching funds raised by Spirit of Christ due Oct 31. List of donors, dates of gifts and amounts required.

SUPPLEMENTAL ASSISTANCE

To complete 2016: The Foundation for the Diocese of Helena—Possible Grant app—\$1,500 Mission Subsidy.

To assist in 2017: 2016 Annual Catholic Appeal—\$3,000 Mission Subsidy.

To assist in 2018 and forward: Assistance from the Committee on the Home Missions—\$3,000 Mission Subsidy.

STEWARDSHIP SPIRITUALITY - Spirit of Christ Mission - Lolo, MT - June 21, 2016

Who is a Christian Steward?	What is expected of me?	What does Scripture say?	What do the Bishops say?
<i>A Christian Steward is one who receives God's gifts gratefully,</i>	Accept everything as gift. Express my gratitude. Help others hear the Lord's voice and respond.	<i>God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27</i>	1. The Call - to imitate Jesus' way of life. Each of us must discern, accept, and live out joyfully and generously the commitments, responsibilities, and roles to which God calls us.
<i>cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner,</i>	Care for everything as if I created and own it.	<i>For everything is from you and we only give you that which we have received from you. 1 Chronicles 29:14</i>	2. Jesus' Way - building the Kingdom. We are empowered to collaborate with Jesus in the work of redemption for ourselves and on behalf of others. Each of us has received a different sum - a unique mix of talents, opportunities, challenges, weaknesses and strengths, potential modes of service and response - on which the Master expects a return.
<i>shares them in justice and love with others</i>	Recognize that I am only poor when I want more than I need. Invite others. Offer hospitality. Share what I have been asked to steward.	<i>There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. 1 Corinthians 12:4-6</i>	3. Living as a Steward - collaborating with God in the work of creation and cooperating with God in the work of redemption. Constantly, Christians must beg God for the grace of conversion: the grace to know who they are, to whom they belong, how they are to live - the grace to repent and change and grow, the grace to become good disciples and stewards.
<i>and returns them with increase to the Lord.</i>	Rely on the Holy Spirit to help me do all that I can to make the most of the time, talent and treasure that's been entrusted to me.	<i>As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Peter 4:10</i>	4. Stewards of the Church - because its individual members do collectively make up the Body of Christ, that body's health and well-being are the responsibility of the members - the personal responsibility of each one of us. We are all stewards of the Church.

GOD of love and mercy, you call us to be your people, you gift us with your abundant grace.

Make us a holy people, radiating the fullness of your love. Form us into a community, a people who care, expressing your compassion.

Remind us day after day of our baptismal call to serve with joy and courage. Teach us how to grow in wisdom and grace and joy in your presence.

Through Jesus and in your Spirit, we make this prayer. AMEN