



*Today let us ask ourselves whether we are afraid of what God might ask or of what he does ask...Do I truly let God into my life? How do I answer Him?*

-Pope Francis

January 22, 2019

Dear Disciple in Christ,

Each year, we ask every parishioner to consider ways in which we are blessed, and how we acknowledge those blessings through time spent in prayer, talents that are shared, and financial support of St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish. How are we truly letting God into our lives?

These elements of time, talent and treasure are **absolutely essential** if we are to sustain God's work in our parish.

This became very clear in 2018 as decreases in giving and increased, unexpected expenses raised concerns about 2019 finances. By God's graces, and wonderful end-of-the-year donations, our six-month budgeted/actual amounts have given us room to breathe. Thank you donors for your generosity!

But we still have those unexpected expenses to deal with; subsequently, we must be able to count on a certain level of support. To do that, please consider increasing **your financial commitment** from last year. And if you didn't give in 2018, make it a priority for 2019 – don't be afraid of what God is asking you to do. Try using our online giving option, WeShare, which makes weekly, monthly, quarterly or yearly giving easy and painless. Just go to our website at [www.stteresaofcalcutta.org](http://www.stteresaofcalcutta.org), scroll down, and select **DONATE ONLINE** on the left side of the screen; the site will lead you through a few steps to set up your online giving account.

Of course, we also need to renew our commitment to **time spent in prayer** by reading and praying with scripture, being part of a Small Group, or attending the Adult Lenten Series, for examples. We must seek to grow our spiritual lives so that we are more open to God's messages. And while praying, can you ask for blessings on our parish, its parishioners, our priests and deacon? We all need those graces to keep us strong in the faith!

To help all become one with God (our parish Mission Statement), each of us must also step up to **offer our talents in service** to our Lord, our parish and to our brothers and sisters. There are many Stewardship Opportunities to pick from (see the included list) with all levels of time commitment (many just monthly or less). There is no greater joy than to be part of service to our parish while meeting others who are on the same journey.

Please answer God's call and **fill out your Stewardship Commitment form**, place it in the envelope provided, and return it via the Offertory, mail or by dropping it off at the Parish Office **by February 15**.

**We count on your response** to help keep us vital, active and flourishing. Don't be afraid.

Yours in Christ,

Deacon Allen Olson

Christine Slowinski, Director, Evangelization & Stewardship