

# Archbishop's Circle is a chance to help in a special way

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By Valerie Schmalz

Marcia Jervis is a member of the Archbishop's Circle "to support the archbishop."

"I like everything he's doing," Jervis said of Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone, who recently hosted an Advent day of recollection and dinner for the 14 individuals and 14 couples who have joined the Circle, which is comprised of those who have donated funds to be used at the discretion of Archbishop Cordileone for projects and initiatives of his choosing.

"So much is needed in helping people learn about church teaching," Jervis said. "We have to get back to basics."

Director of Development Father Anthony Giampietro stressed that funds donated are not given at the expense of the Annual Appeal or at the expense of parish tithing by the donors.

"Those who have joined the Circle are deeply committed to their parishes and to the archdiocese as a whole. They represent a real unity within the diversity of our local church," Father Giampietro said.

For those who attended the Dec. 3 gathering, it was an opportunity to deepen their experience of Advent through reflections by Archbishop Cordileone and Father Roger Gustafson, quiet time and vespers at the archbishop's residence. Before reception and dinner, the archbishop spoke of the plans for the Circle funds this year. It was also a chance for the donors to share their own ideas with him.

"I'm really, really honored to be here," said Claudette Heckert, who with her husband Jerry, a graduate of Sacred Heart High School, is a member of San Mateo Pro-Life.

The Archbishop's Circle provides an opportunity to help Archbishop Cordileone fund individual projects for the archdiocese separate from the archdiocese's budgeted priorities.

This year a series of one-time grants will go to special projects including sending several seminarians to Lourdes on a pilgrimage, a marriage and family couples support project, and a communications conference aimed at helping parishes learn more about cutting-edge digital communications, to name just a few, Father Giampietro said.

"Everything takes money these days and I think this is a wise use of money," said Jervis, a graduate of Marin Catholic High School, of her contribution to the Archbishop's Circle.

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To learn more about the Archbishop's Circle, contact Father Giampietro at the Development office (415) 614-5582, or [GiampietroA@sfarch.org](mailto:GiampietroA@sfarch.org).