

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Lourdes,

Our community of faith at Our Lady of Lourdes is blessed in so many ways and it is important to reflect on our blessings and gifts. As Christians, our greatest gift is Jesus Christ - our Lord and Redeemer. Out of great love, God sent his Son into our world to take our flesh, to forgive our sins, and to lead us back to the Father. Christ's call to us is to become missionary disciples who continue the saving and reconciling mission of God in the world. Here at Lourdes, we are also gifted with a rich tradition and an extraordinary future. Our tradition has been - and our future will be positively shaped by your intentional and generous commitment to live as stewards and missionary disciples.

Stewardship is one of the most prominent themes in all of Scripture. Stewardship is not a slogan or a program. Rather, stewardship is a way of life and faith – the disciple's fruitful response to God. The Christian who lives as a steward, recognizes that all is gift from God. In response to the boundless generosity of God, we are called to receive our gifts gratefully, nurture them responsibly, share them selflessly, and return them to the Lord with increase. I have often said that Lourdes is one of the most gifted communities I have served as a priest. Our goal is to use those abundant gifts to become a stewardship parish. While we are on the way, this will only occur when each of us commits in faith to live as generous stewards and missionary disciples.

This autumn, we are inviting parishioners and friends to prayerfully reflect on how you are able to generously share your gifts of time, talent, and treasure with this community of faith. As you can see from our annual report, our staff, our finance council, and I have worked hard to be good stewards of the gifts you have entrusted to us. Through faith, hard work, and your commitment, Lourdes has become a vibrant parish. In the past seven years our community, programming, finances, outreach, staffing, and administrative capacity have grown and strengthened. We still have a ways to go in some areas as we seek to become an even more vibrant parish.

As I have said on a number of occasions, there is no parish in the Archdiocese that has more potential than Our Lady of Lourdes. The path to successfully reaching our bright future depends entirely on God's grace and your commitment to live as generous stewards. Please take time to prayerfully discern your gift of time, talent, and treasure for this coming year. Please return the Stewardship Pledge Card either via mail or the collection basket in the coming month. Thank you for your faith, your presence, and for your commitment to live as generous stewards!

With Gratitude to God and to You.

Rev. Daniel Griffith