



St. Clement Parish

Stewardship Report 2004

Here is something I know to be true: stewardship is a way of following Jesus that can change our lives and the lives of those around us.

I know this to be true because I can see it in my own life and in the lives of so many parishioners here at St. Clement's. Consider the members of a family who, together, make lunches for the homeless. Parents and their children are doing more than putting sandwiches in a brown bag; they are discussing why someone would be homeless, thinking of what they can do to help eradicate homelessness and taking a moment to pray for those they are helping to feed.

Consider also those who visit our area nursing homes and hospitals, bringing with them friendship and Holy Communion. As someone recently told me, "I don't know why I didn't volunteer in this way a long time ago. The people I visit are so grateful for the few minutes I spend with them, for the friendship and faith we share."

These are but two examples of people who, after considering their many blessings, desire to give back to God. Sometimes we are tempted to think of our lives in terms of frustration, resentment and disappointment. I ask you to remember that life is so much more than that! Each and every one of us is blessed, and when we take time to consider those blessings, we desire to give back to God by sharing our time, talent and treasure.

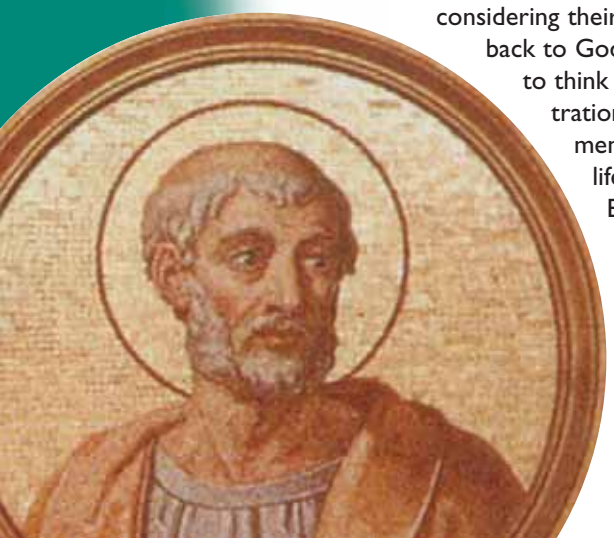
Practicing this way of thinking is practicing stewardship: counting our blessings, giving thanks to God, sharing because we have received so much and being accountable for our lives. Stewardship brings us closer to Jesus and to others.

Our annual Stewardship Report provides us with a picture of how our commitment to stewardship is changing our own lives as well as the lives of others. As you will read, St. Clement's is doing great things! Thank you for your involvement in our parish and your commitment to stewardship.

Fr. Tom Hickey, Pastor

The St. Clement Mission Statement:
We are a community of faith that believes and professes the gospel of Jesus Christ in the living tradition of the Roman Catholic Church. Our spirituality is rooted in prayer, scripture, evangelism, celebration of the Eucharist and sharing in the sacramental life of the Church. Our faith is transformed into action through shaping our lives in the spirit of Christ; developing personal relationships with God through prayer, scripture and worship; being a welcoming community that accepts and encourages diversity; increasing stewardship as we share our talents, spirit and resources in God's service; ministering to the poor, hungry, homeless, ill and spiritually bereft; encouraging peace, justice and social responsibility; nurturing the faith and religious education of our children; and honoring Christ's call to love one another as he loves us.

St. Clement, as pictured in La Guida a I Sommi Pontefici Romani, produced by Realizzato da Memmo Caporilli, Rome.





We Share our Talents with Others

Are you one of many parishioners who have dropped off sack lunches at the Parish Office on a Friday morning, as homeless people line the sidewalk from the front door to the street? As you pass by them carrying your six lunches, you hear them say, one by one, "Thank you" or perhaps "God bless you." It warms your heart on a cold day. It reminds you that doing something as simple as putting together six sack lunches can mean the world to those who are in need.

Have you ever seen the faces of young children light up as you relate to them the story of creation, and as they name for you all the good things God has created? Ask any catechist; they will be quick to say that there is nothing more satisfying than opening children's eyes and minds to an understanding of God's love for us.

Perhaps you have visited or taken the Blessed Sacrament to an elderly, ill or homebound person. They may squeeze your hand and say, "Thank you for coming; you're the only person I've seen since you were here last week." Suddenly, you're aware that taking just one hour out of your week can make a meaningful difference in someone's life.

Maybe you have had the experience of arriving at a home construction site at 8:30 in the morning with only the house frame standing; and when you leave just six hours later, your team has formed rooms with drywall. You realize you have been part of making a dream come true for a family who would otherwise not be able to own a home.

Living a life of stewardship means sharing our God-given talents: using our gifts to enable others to see God's goodness more clearly.

Faith in Action: Getting Involved

If you are not already involved in sharing your time and talent at St. Clement's, please consider how doing so changes your life and the lives of those around you. Put your faith into action and get involved!

To volunteer in the community, contact Mary Cele Doyle at maryd@stclementchurch.org or 773-281-0371, ext. 12.

To become involved in liturgical ministry at St. Clement's, contact Gabriel Mayhugh at gabriel@stclementchurch.org or 773-281-0371, ext. 19.

Faith in Action: Members of the St. Clement's Habitat Team in June at a home construction site in Chicago's Lawndale neighborhood.



We Change our Lives by Making Time for God

Recently a young adult at St. Clement's recounted how Sunday Mass has become an essential part of his week. He realized how "filled up" he feels after attending Mass, and he feels less isolated in wanting to live the Christian life. He realized something incredibly simple yet profound: "I need to be here every Sunday."

A typical family man in our parish takes ten minutes of his work day to pray at his desk, using the Irish Jesuit website Sacred Space (<http://www.jesuit.ie/prayer/>). It helps him calm down and center himself. He hears the gospel for the day. For this man, a few minutes of prayer during his work day has become a habit of faith, renewal and rejuvenation. He sees the world through new eyes; he puts his faith into action.

This year's Lenten Prayer Book became the catalyst for a Clement Mom with two young children. She began to turn off the television, phone and computer and connect her life to the greater plan of God. It has made a difference.

The Men's Prayer Group on Tuesday mornings (photo above) has become a breathing space for many busy men. Hearing the reflections of other men in our community is incredibly inspiring to participants, who say they hold on to what they hear in the group all week.

We Give of our Treasure to the Needy

As part of our Anchored in Faith Capital Campaign which began in 2000, each year for five years \$50,000 is earmarked for grants to be awarded for special projects that will make a difference in the lives of the poor and needy.

Last year was the third year of these awards, and seven projects were chosen to receive the grants.

22 de Abril, our sister parish in El Salvador (\$21,000)

Our Lady of Mercy, our sharing parish, in support of the Colombian Refugee Project (\$6,000)

St. Vincent de Paul Center for the Adopt-a-Family Endowment Fund (\$5,200)

Career Transitions Center, a not-for-profit organization that provides job search assistance (\$5,000)

Lincoln Park Community Shelter as seed money for its capital campaign (\$5,000)

Lakeview Action Coalition, which works for affordable housing in the Lincoln Park area (\$3,000)

For support of the Sudanese refugee

family we work with through Catholic Charities (\$4,800)

Faith in Action Through Clement's Commits: Giving 7% to the Poor 2004 was the second year of the Clement's Commits Program, through which 7% of the general collection is donated to charities and community organizations we support as a parish.

The total amount of funds distributed was \$111,552. To our sharing parish, Our Lady of Mercy, went \$57,480; to our sister parish, 22 de Abril, went \$14,689; to the Lincoln Park Community Shelter went \$8,679; and to Catholic Missions went \$5,895.

To the Retirement Fund for Religious went \$6,514; to seminaries went \$4,885; for the Propagation of the Faith went \$2,366; to the Cardinal's Appeal went \$4,761; to Little Sisters of the Poor went \$1,688; to AIDS Pastoral Care Network went \$2,199; and to Peter's Pence went \$2,399.

Members of the Sudanese refugee family which St. Clement's helps support through Catholic Charities.



Income & Expenses

July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004

Church

Income

Collections	\$1,587,563
Fundraising	137,097
Sacramental fees	82,648
Other church income	31,223

Total \$1,838,531

Expenses

Salaries & benefits	714,979
Ministries	137,378
Maintenance & utilities	153,399
Capital improvements	240,551
Administration	399,304
Subsidy to school/religious ed program	345,411

Total \$1,991,022

Variance (\$152,491)

School

Income

Tuition & fees	\$1,608,621
Fundraising	216,242
Other school income	21,310
Parish subsidy	306,000

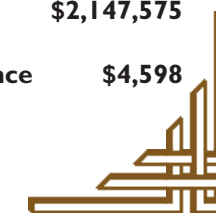
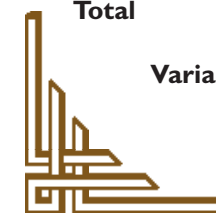
Total \$2,152,173

Expenses

Salaries & benefits	\$1,784,823
Instruction materials	137,508
Maintenance & utilities	121,138
Capital improvements	29,052
Administration	75,054

Total \$2,147,575

Variance \$4,598



We Preserve and Guide our Legacy

This past year we were able to accomplish a number of capital projects. Last summer extensive repairs were made to the school roof and parapet wall and the church parking lot was resurfaced and fenced. Last fall we began repair of the church towers, restoration of the church facade and repair of the stonework along the east, north and south exposures of the church. More than \$750,000 was spent last year on capital projects that were funded both through reserves and with Guiding Our Legacy funds.

The Guiding Our Legacy Fund

Last winter we began an initiative to address ongoing capital improvements to our facilities. This special fund insures that our mission and ministries will not be jeopardized while financing necessary facilities improvements. Seventy parish families pledged more than \$210,000 for 2004. Our hope is to increase membership in this program during the coming year.

This year, Guiding Our Legacy funds were used to help pay for the church facade repair. Also, 7% of the Guiding Our Legacy funds will be donated to a charitable organization for its capital needs.



Repair of the church towers is being financed through reserves as well as the Guiding Our Legacy Fund.

St. Clement Vital Statistics

Baptisms: 218	First Communions: 99
Confirmations: 97	Marriages: 180
Funerals: 10	Volunteers: 973
Registered households: 2,953	

Contact

St. Clement Church
773-281-0371, www.stclementchurch.org
St. Clement School
773-348-8212, www.stclementschoo.org

Stewardship Report

October, 2004