

## **The Fourth Pillar of the St. Kilian Vision Statement – Stewardship**

*“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good Stewards of God’s varied grace.”* (1 Peter 4) Everything we have and all that we are is a loving gift from God. We have not merited anything. God who is all merciful and generous has blessed us, in spite of our sinfulness.

Having been so abundantly blessed, we try to respond with a similar generosity in the way we use our God-given talents and energies; our financial resources and abilities. This is the Spirituality of Stewardship. A Christian steward is a caretaker of all that the Master, our Lord Jesus Christ, has entrusted to him or her. We want to be wise and prudent servants, worthy disciples, who demonstrate our love for the Master in the appropriate use of all the Master has given us. We are deeply grateful for what we have received. We are eager to cultivate our God-given gifts, and use them for the glory of God, and the benefit of our neighbor, especially those less fortunate. When the Master returns, we will be found watchful and ready, eager to greet Him.

The brainstorming sessions on the Five Pillars of Our Vision Statement, include the Spirituality of Stewardship as our fourth pillar. Two goals emerged from the brainstorming sessions conducted by Sr. Angela Gannon.

**Goal #1:** Encourage parents of young children to become engaged and involved in the parish. This will be accomplished in four ways. First, the Stewardship Ministry Fair will be coordinated with the 9:30 AM mass and the young children and parents from our religious education program, who regularly attend. Second, the Stewardship Witness Talks in the spring of 2017 (time and talent renewal), and in the fall of 2017 (renewal of treasure), will also be presented to the parents of children in our Faith Formation programs. Third, we will make certain that families in the Faith Formation Program are registered, and receiving parish and Stewardship mailings. Fourth, the Welcome Wagon Ministry (to be formed in 2017) will reach out with warm welcome to parishioners as they register at St. Kilian. These new families will be given a parish information folder, and a personal witness to the joy and fulfillment of being a St. Kilian parishioner. In addition, a Nazareth program will be organized (implemented and under the guidance of the parish deacons) in 2017, to follow up with parents after their children receive baptism, first holy Communion, and confirmation.

**Goal #2:** Continue the embrace of stewardship as a way of life at St. Kilian’s Parish. This will be accomplished in two ways. First, parishioners will be encouraged to put their faith into action around specific social justice issues: affordable housing, poverty, unemployment, discrimination, gender bias, abortion and other Pro-life concerns. Second, a Hospitality Ministry will be formed with different parish ministries responsible for after mass hospitality. This hospitality will include refreshments and opportunities for parishioners to mix and mingle, wearing name tags and getting to know one another better. It will be offered once a month following the 8 AM, 9:30 AM, and 11 AM masses.

The invitation of Jesus to follow him is addressed to people of every time and condition. Here at St. Kilian it is addressed to each of us. Growing in the love of Christ is a lifetime challenge and task. It means that we are constantly turning our lives over to the Lord in an ever deepening way. We do this because we have been blessed immeasurably with God’s love; a love which is stronger than sin and death.

**We commit ourselves to Christ through an entire way of life that is centered around the Lord. He is our greatest love. We give Him the first fruits of our labors, deeply grateful for what we have received, and eager to share our gifts of time, talent and money, out of love for God and one another.**