

April 1, 2011

As I write this, St. Bridget Parish is experiencing two seasons: one mysteriously dark, the other filled with light. Lent brings upon us a period of darkness, one of contemplation. We ponder the mystery and sadness of Jesus' sacrifice for us, and the suffering He endured. Our liturgies are reflective of this, including limiting adornment of the sanctuary, and the priests wearing purple vestments.

Yet, signs of spring are all around us, with trees budding throughout the city, and early spring flowers in bloom. Each sunrise seems to be more beautiful than the last in the springtime. The color and light of spring foretell of the coming of Easter and Jesus' Resurrection, and our return to more joyful celebrations at Mass. Alleluias will abound!

I want to provide you with a brief update on our Stewardship campaign. In late February we mailed our stewardship appeal letter and pledge cards to 2,600 parish families and individuals and received a timely response from many parishioners. In mid-March we conducted an in-pew pledging opportunity during our liturgies in which almost 300 parishioners responded. We have just begun our follow-up process with a second appeal letter being sent and phone calls being made to families who have not yet responded with their pledge.

At this time, over 900 parishioners have made their pledge and many have generously increased their pledge amount. Their response reflects their understanding that all that we have comes from God, and it is right to return a portion of those gifts for the good work of His Church and our parish. I am deeply grateful for your pledges and your generosity.

Many parishioners have yet to respond to the call to stewardship and to make a pledge. I know some of these families do contribute to our parish but without a pledge we cannot prudently budget. And, I am very sensitive that there are some who are unable to make a financial pledge at this time. I believe, though, that in this very busy time many families have simply not completed their pledge form and returned it to the parish.

If you have not made your stewardship pledge, I pray that you will choose to participate in the Annual Stewardship Commitment Campaign and make a financial promise to God based on all that He gives you. Your pledge will help sustain our parish and support the spiritual growth of our parishioners in a faith-filled, Catholic community. Your pledge will ensure that our parish remains on sound financial footing, able to meet its many obligations at home and in the community. Please take the action now to make your pledge and to turn it in as soon as possible.

I give thanks to the Lord for your generosity and sacrificial giving to our St. Bridget Parish family.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Carr". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.