

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 11, 2012

Sometimes it is not easy to open your hand, especially when you have something valuable in it. Sharing is not always a priority. Two widows come before us today. Both were willing to open their hand and relinquish what they had. And it couldn't have been easy for either one.

The widow in the first reading was in a desperate situation. She was gathering sticks to build a fire to make a cake for herself and her son. Then, they would eat it and die. It was the seventh year of a deadly drought. She was alone and had a child. Along comes a man from another country, a stranger. He asks for water, and, as she goes to get it, he calls out, "And a bit of bread." The nerve, she must have thought. Then this prophet, named Elijah, says, "The jar of flour shall not go empty nor the jar of oil run dry." Her open hand won God's heart. She and her son ate for a year.

Generations later, another widow, this time in Jerusalem, came into the Temple. Her clothes were patched and stained. She carried two small coins with her. A pittance. It was all she had. She walked up to the collection basket. She could hear the heavy coins of the others trumpeting their generosity. Her contribution would barely make a sound. She went up to the box and opened her hand, dropping the two coins in. Her deed did not go unnoticed. A man turned to his friends and said, "This poor widow put in more than all the other donors. They have contributed from their surplus wealth. She, from her poverty, has contributed all she had." She had opened her hand, surrendering all.

Today, we heard two stories about two widows of long ago. We remember them year after year as examples of generous giving. Today we're going to hear another story about our parish as told by one of our own and volunteer bookkeeper, Michele McCarthy. It's Stewardship Education Sunday in the Archdiocese of Seattle and Commitment Sunday here at Christ Our Hope Parish.

Michele:

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE:

Thank you Fr Paul for inviting me and on behalf of the Finance Council I want to thank all of you as well. My name is Michele McCarthy and I am a member of the Finance Council and the volunteer accountant here at the parish.

You may recall me speaking last year as we conducted our first ever Stewardship renewal. WELL Im back....and thankfully you (the generous parishioners of this parish) are still here.

We spoke often last year about how Christ Our Hope is Your parish AND **MY** PARISH . We also spoke about why it is so important that we all make a prayerful financial commitment to our parish. I am here today, firstly to THANK YOU for taking that message to heart. Because of your commitments we have completed another successful year and are able to celebrate some important milestones....

List them from Annual Report....



	2011 - 2012	Budget '12-13	
Sunday Collections	\$ 222,078.00	\$ 210,000.00	<i>Respectfully submitted by the Finance Council:</i>
Holy Day Collections	\$ 1,764.00	\$ 8,000.00	
Annual Appeal	\$ 37,248.00	\$ -	
Rebate	\$ 37,248.00	\$ -	Cathy Baroletti
Other Collection	\$ 530.00	\$ -	<i>Chair Deacon Larry McDonald Parish Administrator</i>
Income	\$ 22,641.00	\$ 12,000.00	
Donations	\$ 2,979.00	\$ -	
Restricted Donations	\$ 38,511.00	\$ 38,511.00	Adam Janicki
Archdiocesan	\$ 10,030.00	\$ 8,500.00	Member
Assistance	\$ 7,730.00	\$ 6,000.00	Michele
Grant Revenue	\$ 2,729.00	\$ 6,120.00	McCarthy
Liturgy Fees & Stipends			Member
Bank Interest			

Total Revenue	\$ 346,240.00	\$ 289,131.00
Clergy Salaries	\$ 27,800.00	\$ 28,800.00
Musician Salaries	\$ 125.00	\$ 3,000.00
Lay Salaries Workers	\$ -	\$ 13,478.40
Compensation	\$ 326.00	\$ 558.00
Medical Insurance— Clergy	\$ 12,200.00	\$ 12,735.00
Clergy Pension	\$ 5,900.00	\$ 6,500.00
Priest 403b Matching	\$ 687.00	\$ 750.00
Priest Education Fund	\$ 155.00	\$ 700.00
Deacon Education Fund	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Priest Housing Allowance	\$ 23,004.00	\$ 23,230.00
Priest Vehicle Allowance	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,660.00
Office Supplies	\$ 4,845.00	\$ 3,600.00
Print Materials		
Brochures	\$ 5,203.00	\$ 4,800.00
Postage And Mailing	\$ 447.00	\$ 1,200.00
Sacristy Supplies	\$ 4,020.00	\$ 6,000.00
Music Supplies	\$ 3,502.00	\$ 3,600.00
Altar Flowers	\$ 2,122.00	\$ 2,640.00
Linens And Vestments	\$ 87.00	\$ 600.00
Altar/Sanctuary Appointments	\$ 2,056.00	\$ 1,200.00
Socials And Celebrations	\$ 127.00	\$ 1,200.00
Coffee Hour Resource	\$ 1,117.00	\$ 1,200.00
Books/Supplies	\$ 261.00	\$ -
Subscriptions	\$ 762.00	\$ 1,200.00
Sacramental Preparation	\$ 116.00	\$ 2,400.00
Adult Education	\$ 636.00	\$ -
Clergy Retreats	\$ 435.00	\$ 500.00
Building Maintenance	\$ 5,589.00	\$ 6,000.00
Equipment Repairs	\$ 508.00	\$ 1,200.00
Small Equipment	\$ 803.00	\$ 1,200.00
Building Lease	\$ 69,733.00	\$ 91,473.00
Bank Charges	\$ 3,048.00	\$ 1,200.00
Permits/Licenses	\$ 2,100.00	\$ -
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$ 310.00	\$ 1,200.00
Advertising	\$ 590.00	\$ 200.00
Mass Stipends	\$ 1,952.00	\$ 2,400.00
Restricted Gift Expenditures	\$ 34,911.00	\$ -

Dick Vacca
Member

Parish Bulletin	\$ 3,073.00	\$ 2,400.00
Utilities	\$ 5,100.00	\$ 14,400.00
Telephone & Data Expense	\$ 2,877.00	\$ 1,500.00
Travel Expense	\$ 836.00	\$ 600.00
Stewardship Expense	\$ 834.00	\$ 800.00
Archdiocesan Assessment	\$ -	\$ 9,500.00
Total Expense	\$ 234,197.00	\$ 261,124.40
Net Revenue Over Exp	\$ 112,043.00	\$ 28,006.60
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As you can see, There is so much to celebrate. You heard the call and you responded with incredible generosity.

Together we have laid the foundation, we have a mission statement to guide us, a vision for this parish that is now gradually becoming a reality. I asked you all last year to take a look at the beautiful poster on the wall outside... its still there, look at it again if you have a moment! I know it still inspires me and makes me very proud of all that is happening at this special little jewel of a parish.

Just like with everything in our lives, our hopes and dreams oftentimes come down to resources, can we do it? Can we afford it? Thanks to you, so far, that answer has been YES! The new space that is being constructed across the lobby is tangible evidence of that. Not only do we have a vision, we will soon have spaces that will allow us to more effectively do our work.

However, the completion of the space is just the beginning. The real work is now ahead of us as WE truly become a presence in the heart of the city. What will that look like? We that is really up to all of us isn't it?

It is my prayer that this parish will not only have the resources to maintain our presence in Downtown Seattle, but that in making our stewardship commitments, we send a powerful statement...one that says we support the growth of Christ Our Hope YES< I want my commitment to show Father Paul and parish leadership

that I support them on this journey. That is why we are not just being asked to give, we are being asked to prayerfully commit to a gift of Treasure for the upcoming year

Ours is a parish where every gift, large or small is acknowledged and welcomed and I am very proud of that fact. So for some of us, we can share of our Treasure in a way that others may not. Stewardship is meant to be proportional, each giving according to their means. So, In thinking about my commitment, I personally refer back to the biblical tithe and think about my giving as a percentage of my income. I do that so that I can see how my gift to the church compares to the other priorities in my life. I would ask that as you consider your gift, think about giving as a percent of your income.

So to close, I appreciate the opportunity to be with all of you in prayer during stewardship month. My fellow parishioners on the Finance Council and I have prepared an Annual Financial Report for you that is included today in the bulletin. This is our way of being accountable to all of you and we hope you find it informative as to the financial operations of the parish over the last year. We have also included the 2012-2013 budget for your information as the Council takes it responsibility to being good stewards of the resources you entrust to us seriously. Again thank you Father, and thank to all of you for your time today.

Thank you, Michele. In just a moment, we will offer the great Eucharistic prayer of thanksgiving, remembering all God has done for us in Jesus Christ. And then the Body and Blood of Christ will be placed into our open hands. It is given as a gift and as a reminder that *all* is gift. When we open our hands to God around this table, God fills them. When we open our hands to our brothers and sisters in this parish and to those in need, God gives us hope and encouragement. When we return our Stewardship commitment card to this parish, Christ alone can tell

me in what way I need to go out to my sisters and brothers to live the mission of Christ Our Hope Parish.

Paul A. Magnano

Pastor