



THE CALL

Greetings!

Happy New Year, Grace & Peace to all.

Wow, another year has come and gone, it seems like yesterday when the first edition of Staying Connected was first sent out in June and here it is January 2012. I would like to thank all of you who receive this communication.

I have named this article “The Call” basically because of last Sunday’s reading where Samuel responds to God calling his name. As I listened I couldn’t help but reflect on the formation process our Stewardship Council is currently undergoing. Ironically enough the first chapter of the Bishops letter speaks of the “The Call” or that personal invitation from our gracious Lord to be followers of Jesus Christ, to become his disciples and to carry out the “one mission of Christ: to do God’s will, to proclaim the Good News of salvation, to heal the afflicted, to care for one’s sisters and brothers, to give life-life to the full—as Jesus did”. (Stewardship A Disciple’s Response). It made me stop and consider how God is calling me. It also made me think about my response to him and it made very clear what the Bishop letter had stated: “The response of becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ leads naturally to the practice of stewardship”. So, I ask you: Have you heard the Lord calling your name? How will you respond?

Mother Teresa is an excellent example of responding to God’s call. That being said, I would like to share with you a short article I found on the Catholic Diocese of Wichita website. It reads:

Mother Teresa always told her sisters to remember the “Gospel on Five Fingers.” She would say the words, “You did it for Me,” as she held up each finger on her hand. These words come from the Judgment of the Nations (Matthew 25:31-46) where Jesus tells us that we will be judged by how we treated those who were thirsty or hungry or sick.

When Mother Teresa began her work with the poor she cared for thousands of people who were truly thirsty, hungry, or sick, but later in her life as she became world famous and was invited to travel to the United States she began to teach that even people who have food and clothes and lots of material possessions can be poor because they are lonely or do not know God. She began to encourage all people to know who the poor were in their own corner of the world.

Items of interest this month:

Capital Campaign: Our Capital Campaign pledges have reached 50%, what a blessing! Thank you so very much. But we still have a ways to go, if you have any questions please feel free to give me a jingle.

Snippets of the Faith: Snippets of the Faith will focus on praying the mass & praying in gratitude. First session begins on February 8th. Please contact Andy Kereky for more information.

First Reconciliation & First Communion: First reconciliation was completed in November & First Communion preparations are currently underway.

Christmas: I cannot go without saying how absolutely beautiful the services were this year. As one parishioner had commented after midnight mass. "Now that is Christmas". Many thanks to all those who shared their time & talent in celebration of the birth of our Lord.

Fish Fry: Our first Fish Fry will be held on February 24th. Please keep your eye on the bulletin to sign up.

Lenten Preparations: As Father Tim would say: "It is never too early to prepare for Lent". He would ask that you begin your Lenten preparations by thinking about what you are going to do and why you are doing it, so as to grow into a closer relationship to our Lord Jesus.

Stewardship, a Way of Live

God Bless

Joyce Wager

Stewardship Director