

Staying Connected Thru E-Mail

Greetings!

Grace & peace to all,

Welcome! Welcome! Welcome! To all of you new to "Staying Connected via e-mail" and for those who have been with me from the start a warm welcome back. I trust you have enjoyed the balmy summer days and are settling in as summer comes to a close.

This summer has been very exciting here at St Raphael. Panda Mania, our Vacation Bible School was a huge success. 251 children, ages 4 through grade 5, 152 teen volunteers & 50 adult volunteers experienced just how fun summer can be when spent with God. Such energy and enthusiasm for the Lord. It was nothing less than AWESOME!

Our first Stewardship Leadership Retreat was held last weekend. This spiritual retreat was a time for all our parish leaders to draw aside and spend time with God and with one another. It provided an opportunity for personal reflection and small group discussions. The retreat was led by Deacon David Krueger from the Archdiocese of Omaha who spoke about stewardship and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Looking ahead: Our Parish Picnic is this Sunday August 21st, I hope to see you all there. :-)

In my July communication to you I talked about Stewardship as a way of life and that it is something that we as Catholic Christians do each and everyday. I came across an article from Father Michael Troha, Pastor at Immaculate Conception Parish in Willoughby that relates perfectly to what living the stewardship way of life is all about. It is called: What will God Ask Us? and I would like to share it with you.

- 1) God won't ask you what kind of car you drove. He'll ask you how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.
- 2) God won't ask the square footage of your house. He'll ask you how many people you welcomed into your home.
- 3) God won't ask you about the clothes you had in your closet. He'll ask you how many people you helped clothe.
- 4) God won't ask you what your highest salary was. He'll ask you if you compromised your character to obtain it.
- 5) God won't ask you what your job title was. He'll ask you if you performed your job to the best of your ability.
- 6) God won't ask you how many friends you had. He'll ask you how many people you befriended.
- 7) God won't ask you in what neighborhood you lived. He'll ask you how you treated your neighbors.
- 8) God won't ask you about the color of your skin. He'll ask you about the content of your character.
- 9) God won't ask you why it took you so long to seek salvation. He'll lovingly take you to your mansion in heaven.
- 10) God won't have to ask you how many people you spread this message to. He'll already know.

God Bless
Joyce Wager
Stewardship Director

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