A Letter From Our Pastor

Sharing the Good News Through Stewardship

Dear Parishioners,

Jesus invites each one of us to “Come Follow Me,” and it is time for all of us as His disciples to prayerfully consider our response to this invitation.

By now, you should have received your 2015 Covenant Card in the mail, and I hope and pray you take this opportunity to give God your response.

As a community of faith, the Covenant Card is our chance to take a step forward to share the Good News, to say “Thank You” to God for all that He has given us, and to declare, “Here I am, Lord, I come to do Your will.”

The basic principle of stewardship is that everything we have is a gift from God. We all have limited time and resources, and we all have this one life on Earth. Jesus asks us to use it in such a way that it will do the most good for the most people.

Together, we are able to do great things for God, through Jesus His Son and the Holy Spirit, in unity as a community of faith. We know in our hearts that God has not left us alone to wander in the dark. We are journeying together in the light because God travels with us, lighting the way with love everlasting.

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God is Good All the Time!

Stewardship as a way of life at Queen of Peace helps us grow more fully as Disciples of Christ. We are intentional in our sharing and give it prayerful consideration. Together we follow Christ and our lives give witness to others about who Jesus Christ is and the Good News of the Gospel.

The biblical tithe of 10% helps us to keep Christ at the center of all our decisions and teaches us how to manage money and possessions God’s way. Through your committed, consistent support we are able to advance the mission of Queen of Peace Catholic Community without second collections or fund raisers. We share 10% of our offertories with other charities including the diocesan special collections. Because you give we are able to:

- Teach others about Jesus Christ;
- Fight hunger, provide clean water, and champion human dignity in our area and far away;
- Empower women to say “yes” to their pregnancy;
- Minister to the homeless and the forgotten;
- Help those whose lives are changed by natural disasters, addiction or abusive situations;
- Support young men preparing for the priesthood;
- Bring hope to the marginalized, and more!

Thank you. Together our sharing changes lives. It’s great to be on the journey with you.
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Queen of Peace Catholic Community
Financial Summary
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014

Offertory Income $3,008,437.42
Other Income $177,989.76
Total Income $3,186,427.18

Ministry Pgms/Outreach/Charities/Dio & Cath School Support
Operations $842,193.24
Mortgage(s) $801,299.22
Facilities $414,902.34
Total Expense $3,079,948.49
Total Reserves $106,478.69

If you missed John Gasser’s Parish Update on Oct. 25/26, please visit the parish website to view the video.

Don’t miss the monthly parish financial information you receive on the reverse side of your monthly giving letter.
The Special Events Ministry

Our Queen of Peace Special Events Ministry hosts activities and events for parishioners, striving to build community within our parish. The purpose of this ministry is to provide parishioners opportunities to get together and do something fun and meaningful within our faith community.

“People want to be where their friends are, and we want to give them the opportunity to socialize and build relationships right here at Queen of Peace,” says Jen Tener, our P.A. of Parish Ministries. We try to have something monthly where everyone can gather socially with their friends and Queen of Peace family.”

This December, the Special Events Ministry will again work together with our MOMS Ministry to coordinate our Adopt-a-Family event. Just after Thanksgiving, the Adopt-a-Family ornament trees are set up in the parish hospitality area. Parishioners choose an ornament which represents a family’s Christmas wishes, and they then shop for that family. The event enables parishioners to support those less fortunate over the Christmas season.

“Each one of our events is special, but this one is always a testimony to the spirit here at Queen of Peace,” Jen says. “The past couple years, all of the ornaments have been adopted the first weekend that they go up. Every year, I worry that we won’t be able to support all of the...
Special Events Ministry  continued from page 4

needs, and every year it re-ignites my light to be a part of, and a witness to, the joyful generosity of our Queen of Peace family."

As the ministry team works diligently to make parish events engaging and entertaining for our parish community, Jen notes that none of the events would be possible without the wonderful parishioners who are the heart of this special ministry.

“This ministry couldn’t run without our special events team members who give their time and talent to help plan, organize and put on these events. Many hands make light work, so we have a lot of people helping, and it makes for amazing events. We couldn’t do what we do here without them.”

For more information on the Special Events Ministry, or how you can get involved, please contact Jen Tener at 352-448-4547 or via email at jtener@qopparish.org.
The word “talent” often conjures up images of stage performers in the spotlight, captivating awestruck audiences with their impeccable musical or acting skills. While these talented performers are certainly deserving of applause, the majority of the population sits hidden in the shadows, staring on in amazement while feeling overlooked — and perhaps wishing to possess such talents themselves. But even when we feel overlooked and untalented, God knows better. As Christians, we are all called to dig deep and trust that we are specially blessed with valuable talents and abilities, even if our talents aren't so obvious or don't garner applause and accolades.

Along with “time” and “treasure,” “talent” is one of the “three Ts” of stewardship. Exploring our natural inclinations and preferences, especially when guided by the intricacies of our unique personalities, can unearth God-given talents.

“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same spirit,” writes St. Paul in his First Letter to the Corinthians, “there are different forms of service, but the same Lord.”

Some people have the gift of working peacefully with children. Equipped with patience and gentleness, they are able to guide young souls to the Lord. Yet, others shudder at the thought of a classroom full of 5-year-olds, and instead seek the quiet solace of behind-the-scenes tasks — cleaning the church, sewing altar cloths or stuffing envelopes.

Our interests and abilities are varied, and our opportunities are endless, as we are called to give our talents back to God in loving service. Examine your heart and prayerfully discern your gifts, then direct those gifts towards serving the people of God.

H. Jackson Brown, Jr., author of Life’s Little Instruction Book, once said, “Talent without discipline is like an octopus on roller skates. There’s plenty of movement, but you never know if it is going to be forwards, backwards, or sideways.”

If our gifts of talent are not just like an octopus on roller skates, we will get nowhere fast! Yet, if we keep our eyes on the goal of heaven and serve the Lord with joyfulness, our efforts will produce a bountiful harvest. In the words of St. Paul to the Corinthians, “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will reap bountifully.”

The next time you sit quietly in the shadow of a glaring stage spotlight, rest assured that your talents are no less impressive in the eyes of God, and will always be “applauded” when directed to the service of His people.
Unity Celebrated in Multicultural Activities

In addition to the multicultural program we have planned for this December here at Queen of Peace, efforts have also been underway to continuously recognize and welcome the richness our parish enjoys through the many cultures represented here.

Ted and Nita Cortez, of the Multicultural Ministry, are looking forward to the event on December 7th, especially since Bishop Felipe Estevez plans to attend. Bishop Estevez recognized the emphasis we put on multicultural activities through our parish video and chose Queen of Peace as one of five parishes he plans to visit for such events this year. “Last December,” Ted says, “We had Filipinos present a cultural dance and Mexican parishioners did one as well.” Different cultural groups within the parish are invited to present food, music and dance, and examples of traditional costumes and other items as a way of sharing their heritage.

Another means the committee is instituting to welcome our varied cultures into the fabric of our parish life is by inviting different nationalities to serve as greeters and gift bearers during the second Sunday of each month. “They will be encouraged to wear their national dress or costume, and will welcome parishioners as they come into the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Mass,” Ted says. “This way we say, ‘We welcome different nationalities and not only people who are Catholic. People of different religions are welcome to come.’”

Tying all of this together is the concept that there is unity in welcoming the diverse cultures represented in our parish. “This is what it is all about,” Ted says.

Our parish includes Filipino, Hispanic, Irish and Polish cultures, among others. And our Hispanic parishioners represent several different countries.

Ted and Nita agree that our community is engaged in a spirit of “welcome,” a trait they experienced firsthand when they moved here in 1999. “I want to stay here,” Ted says. “I love what we’re doing here.”

Anyone interested in participating in the Multicultural Ministry may contact the ministry by email at multicultural@qopparish.org.
MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday :: 6 p.m.
Sunday :: 8 a.m., 10 a.m.,
12:30 p.m. Spanish, 5:30 p.m.

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Your Covenant Card is an opportunity to make a commitment to deepen your prayer life, to be active in ministry, and to generously give to the weekly offertory.

We have been so blessed here at Queen of Peace – it has been a year of wonderful celebrations and milestones for our community. We have been able to do great things for God, which I hope you will read about in this month’s newsletter.

I believe that God is grateful for all that we do – and the fruit of gratitude is the joy that fills our life.

We all have limited time and resources, and we all have this one life on Earth. Jesus asks us to use it in such a way that it will do the most good for the most people.

As your pastor, I thank you – for the time, talent and treasure you share with our Queen of Peace community every day.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Jeff McGowan, Pastor