

January 15, 2003

Dear Pastors, Parish Directors, and Stewardship Coordinators,

With the New Year upon us, the Lenten season is not far behind. As you are aware, the season of Lent has been designated by Bishop Banks as the time for promoting prayer in a special way as part of our Diocesan Stewardship thrust. It is our hope that this letter and its accompaniments will provide you with the tools to facilitate the prayer life of your parishioners ever more deeply and effectively.

The centerpiece of the prayer component for Lent 2003 is the "little black book" published by the Diocese of Saginaw, MI, under the authorship of Bishop Kenneth Untener. They are small, pocket-sized books with a six-minute--a-day reflection for each day of Lent. Copies of a few pages from last year's "Little Black Book" are included for your review. They are perfect for on-the-go and busy parishioners who can keep them in their purse or briefcase, or by the bed. These marvelous "little books" have been offered to the parishes of the Diocese of Green Bay for the very low cost of 50 cents per book for this year only. (Beginning with Advent 2003 the price varies according to the order size). Each parish is asked to place their own order, as the Diocese of Green Bay will not have them on hand. An order form is included with this letter, along with promotional material for a bulletin insert, and other bulletin announcements for the weeks leading up to Lent to encourage people to use these books. Many parishes throughout the diocese have used these "little books" and found them to be an invaluable asset to the personal prayer lives of their parishioners. We suggest placing your order by February 1, 2003 to insure timely delivery. We have asked Bishop Banks to address the use of these "little books" in his column the week before Ash Wednesday in "The Compass."

There are also several other resources available to you, your worship committees and stewardship committees to help you as you embark upon this prayer component of our Diocesan Stewardship thrust. There are prayer cards with the Diocesan Stewardship Prayer on it available for purchase or reproduction. You may print this on the cover of your bulletin, or place it on the inside front or back cover of your hymnal or worship aid during Lent.

The Worship Office of the Diocese of Green Bay put out a booklet entitled "Resources for Lent: A Spirituality of Stewardship" which is also included in this packet. In that booklet you will find resources for spirituality, liturgical Proclamations to begin each Sunday Lenten liturgy, music suggestions, liturgical environment guidelines, reconciliation ideas, etc. which may be helpful for your worship committees. ,

Many parishes have special small faith sharing groups that meet either during Lent, or monthly throughout the year. We are including in this mailing the "Small Faith Sharing Materials" for Lent written by a small diocesan writing team. Since many people are looking for a little extra something to get involved in during Lent, they are a wonderful way for small groups of people to get together for a short period of time to share faith and fellowship during Lent.

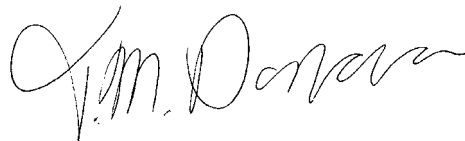
There are other Stewardship materials available through the Diocese of Green Bay, and an order form is included with this packet. If you have any questions about the prayer component of our Diocesan Stewardship thrust, please feel free to contact us.

Be assured of our prayers and blessings as you plan for and embark upon this most important and central initiative in our diocese.

In Christ's Peace,



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Enclosures