

September 3, 2003

Greetings to All in the Diocese:

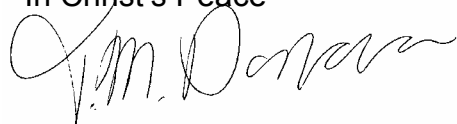
We are continuing our diocesan thrust, **Stewardship - a Way of Life**, into the autumn with an **Emphasis on the Sharing** of all that our Lord has provided. It is my prayer the summer months have provided each of you the time to take in all that has been provided for us in the Gardens of the Lord. The Stewardship of Sharing focus starts on the weekend of October 25/26 and it is intended to be the centerpiece of International Stewardship Day on Sunday, November 9, 2003.

It is so easy to forget that Jesus discussed many times with his disciples the need for all to share. We may remember his directive to go forward in groups of two with nothing but a cloak. He knew the community of believers would share what little bread they had for the good of each other. We have included many biblical references in this packet on sharing for your use as bulletin inserts, little notes to make into poster boards, signs etc. All have as their core message the words of Luke, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Lk 12:34)

The centerpiece of this sharing thrust is a focus on a pledge card. We are asking each parish in the diocese to prayerfully consider having members fill the cards out either before or during mass, and then to bring them to the altar with the collection at November 8/9 liturgies. Entire families can be invited to do this together. The visible symbolism of having the entire church come forward to pledge, without any need for follow-up on the parishes part, will be a powerful reminder of the universality of Stewardship. Pledge cards can be sent home the weekend before with extras and pencils in each pew on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 8/9, 2003. We are not asking for any parish follow up on this pledge card so as to not interfere with any effort you are undertaking, and to reinforce the spiritual message that the pledge of prayer, service and sharing is between each of our members and Jesus.

Additional materials enclosed are: Suggested Homilies written by Bishop Morneau, sample outlines for witness talks, children's activities, and an article on the Stewardship of Money for discussion by your Stewardship Committee.

In Christ's Peace



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