



February 25, 2005

Dear Pastor/Parish Director/Stewardship Parish Contacts,

As part of the 2005 Stewardship of Service packets, I am very pleased to be able to add a new means to recognize those volunteers in your parish community. In past service packets, we have included numerous means and ideas to affirm and validate the valuable work being performed by members of your community. We know that volunteers do what they do well because a desire to give back, a need to contribute and a desire to fill time with meaningful work that benefits the community and parish.

Most of us will seldom verbalize the desire to be recognized for the work we do in our parishes and community. But from our own personal experience, we know the good feeling when such praise does come our way. The Gaudium Et Spes Nomination is a new means for you to give recognition to that person or couple in your parish deserving of that special pat on the back. Each parish is invited to nominate one or two persons/couples specially deserving of affirmation by Bishop Zubik. One person or couple may be nominated for direct services within the parish community such as that volunteer who comes in without fail each Thursday to stuff bulletins. Someone else may be nominated for long standing service to the Scout Troup or Habitat for Humanity project. Every person nominated will receive a letter of congratulations from Bishop Zubik and a special write up in the Compass. Each Pastor and/or Parish Director is invited to nominate someone deserving from your parish or you may want to involve parish staff, Parish Council members or any other process you feel comfortable with using.

“In our times a special obligation binds us to make ourselves the neighbor of every person without exception, and of actively helping him when he comes across our path, whether he be an old person abandoned by all, a foreign laborer unjustly looked down upon, a refugee, a child born of an unlawful union and wrongly suffering for a sin he did not commit, or a hungry person who disturbs our conscience by recalling the voice of the Lord, “As long as you did it for one of these the least of my brethren, you did it for.”

The Gaudium Et Spes Nomination forms must be submitted to Pastoral Services by April 15, 2005. Each form must be signed by the Pastor or Parish Director. Each parish is asked to nominate no more than one for Parish Service and may at your option submit a second nomination for Community Service.

Sincerely

Thomas M. Donovan
Pastoral Service Consultant