

St. Isidore, the Farmer, Family of Parishes

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

The definition of a Catholic steward is a disciple of Jesus who "receives God's gifts gratefully, cultivates them responsibly, shares them lovingly in justice with others and returns them with increase to the Lord." We are all born with some sort of gift or talent, something that we uniquely do very well. As a Family of Parishes, you can just imagine how many talents we have right here in the St. Isidore, the Farmer, Family. And how much opportunity we have to use our skills and resources to build up the Church and live as Christ's Body in the world, and it all starts with gratitude. A life filled with gratitude is bursting with service and ministry to others as God's Gifts in Action. And we want to thank all those who participated at the St. Isidore, the Famer, Family of Parishes over the past year to the benefit of others for the following:

- **6** people became Catholic through RCIA
- **106** teachers & aides instructed **624** students in Religious Education and Sunday morning preschool
- Bereavement and funeral ministry for **78** funerals
- Marriage and wedding preparation for **25** weddings
- **87** infant baptisms
- Thousands of hours by hundreds of volunteers for the IC Festival, St. Patrick's Day Celebration, Vacation Bible Schools, Parish Life Ministries, Newcomer Visitations, and the many prayer ministries within the St. Isidore, the Farmer Family
- No. of visits to homebound, local nursing homes, and Communion Services over **1500**.
- **76** children received the sacrament of First Reconciliation and First Communion
- **65** young adults received Confirmation
- Incredible support in community outreach through St. Vincent de Paul, CALL Ministry, Rockford Community Days, Henderson Settlement, Elizabeth Pregnancy Center, Rustic Hope, Agape, Mission Breakfasts, Christian Mothers Sodality, Giving Trees, and St. Johns Builders.
- Countless prayers offered by parishioners

God's Gifts in Action is our way to be Christ to someone else through the generous sharing of our time, talent and treasure. And this Christ-like gratitude can lead to generosity that becomes a way of life as we live out our vocation. Imagine a more welcoming community that offers hospitality to everyone. And a Family of Parishes that invites people of all ages and stages of life to give of themselves through ministry, service and meaningful leadership roles.

Just as we have grown from individual Parishes to now a Family of Parishes, it is also important that each of us grow in our own personal discipleship. As Christ becomes more dominate in our lives, we begin to recognize that the Work of God is much bigger than ourselves. And when people witness the incredible results of sharing their time, talents and treasure and the positive impact it can make not only in our Family of Parishes but also in our communities, this leaves a profound effect on people.

The Stewardship Commission membership should include parishioners from each of the Parishes in the St. Isidore, the Farmer, Family. IC and St. Patrick's are represented currently, and we are looking to find at least two representatives each from Holy Rosary, Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Teresa.

We are grateful for all the ways the St. Isidore, the Farmer, Family parishioners bless and benefit so many through the sharing of God's Gifts in Action as a way of returning to God with increase.

The Stewardship Commission, all Parish Staffs, and Priests thank you for giving what you have been blessed with. It is the best way to thank God for all the blessings he has granted each of us.

Commission members:

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