

Pastor's Column

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“Towers of Faith—Be a Part of the Legacy!”

Last year, on Sunday, November 5, 2006, the “Towers of Faith” gathered together for the first time to meet, socialize, and “break bread” together.

Geraldine Barton, Carl & Colleen Bechtold, Michael Bosak, William Brincko, George & Hazel Bronzan, Roger & Pat Burkhardt, Lew & Jean Crowell, Jack & Charlotte Dale, Larry & Betty Dorsa, Don & Rosanna Eppich, Len & Lois Garth, Charles Robert Hall, Paul Kennedy, Jim Kilian, William Mazarella, Pat McCarthy, Richard & Ann McGeary, Joyce Meehan, Elizabeth Miles, Leo & Beverly Miller, Ralph Mueller, John & Jean O'Donnell, Mary Anne Palmer, Mike & Natalie Provinse, Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Randy & Jana Reznicek, Connie Ringel, Christina Smith, Carl & Masako Streling, Frank & Mary Lou Thompson, and William Zontine are the Charter Members of the St. Thomas More “Towers of Faith.” There are also several households that are Charter Members, but choose to remain anonymous.

The “Towers of Faith” is a grass-roots movement that has arisen due to the generosity of a number of parishioners who wanted to ensure that the treasure they would leave behind upon their death would be a sign of life for future generations and a legacy that would continue to support the build-out of our Parish Campus.

As participants of the “Towers of Faith,” program, these people share a common bond of overt generosity and visionary leadership which nourishes the ongoing success of our Parish.

The “Towers of Faith” have included St. Thomas More in their estate planning—through Designated Beneficiary Accounts, Life Insurance, Wills, Living Trusts, Stocks and Gifts of Property. In some fashion, St. Thomas More was remembered, just as they remembered family members and friends!

“Towers of Faith” is our future support. It will ensure that we can confidently move into the future and meet “head-on” the challenges that await us.

The Charter Members of the “Towers of Faith” are the pioneers who are setting the example and encouraging other parishioners to follow their lead.

My words to them at our dinner on November 5:

“It is with a great sense of humility and gratitude that I am in your presence today to recognize you as the Charter Members, the pioneers, of the “Towers of Faith.” You are blazing a path that I know others will follow.

Your selflessness in remembering the Church of St. Thomas More in your estate planning helps to create a sure and secure future for our Parish and the continued build-out of our Parish Campus.

You live well the words of Fr. Henri Nouwen taken from his book, The Return of the Prodigal Son:

“The discipline of gratitude is the explicit effort to acknowledge that all that I am and have is given to me as a gift of love, a gift to be celebrated with joy.”

Your generosity and your gift of love allow us to celebrate with great joy! Our God of all Goodness smiles on you today! Thank You!”

We are now gathering names for the 2007 “Towers of Faith.” It is my hope that you would consider remembering St. Thomas More in your estate planning and participating in this venture that is so vital to our future.

This year’s “Towers of Faith” dinner will be on Sunday, December 2, 2007. At this dinner, we will break bread together again and celebrate with those who have chosen to be a part of the legacy; we will remember and honor those “Towers of Faith” who have died in the past year—Lew Crowell, Jim Kilian, and Bill Zontine; and we will recognize and honor the newest members.

If you would like more information, please contact Chris Smith, our Director of Stewardship and Development, at 758-4100 x120 or chriss@stmoside.org. She will be more than happy to answer any questions that you may have.

F. Mike