

## Pastor's Column

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### How Do We Pledge Allegiance to Our King?

In this month of November, we continue our reflection upon Stewardship. Stewardship is not a program or process, but rather, it is a lifestyle that we freely choose as our way of pledging allegiance to our King.

So often in conversation, we hear the phrase, "Don't just talk the talk; walk the walk." In other words, our internal faith must be externalized through the actions of our everyday lives.

As Disciples of the Lord Jesus, we believe him to be our Lord and Savior, sent from our good and gracious God, as a gift of love to us.

As Disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are members of his Body. We are the Body of Christ for this time and place. We are called to continue his mission and ministry to the little corner of the world in which we find ourselves.

We do this, not just in word, but also in deed. Our time, talent, and treasure become the external signs of what we internally believe. We give our "first fruits," that biblical tithe, or 10%, of time, talent, and treasure, in order to build up the Body of Christ.

We put the Lord first in our lives, because the Lord has placed us first in his life. When we each do our part and give our tithe, it is amazing all that we can accomplish in the Name of Jesus!

This past weekend, we welcomed Dr. Brad Yates and his wife, Dr. Susan Lagasse, and their children, Timothy and Sydney, as our lay witnesses to share with us their commitment in the living out of their Christian Stewardship here at St. Thomas More Parish.

In a very direct way, we were reminded not to let our fears rule, but rather, to rise above them, and to allow God's grace to strengthen us to do what needs to be done to continue the mission and ministry of Jesus for this time and this place.

We thank them for not only "talking the talk," but "walking the walk."

Last weekend a special insert prepared by Chris Smith, our Director of Stewardship and Development, was included in the bulletin. The insert reminded us of the almost 100 ministries that are active here in the Parish and listed the numbers of people needed to make these ministries flourish.

Please take time to review that insert and find a way that you can commit or deepen your commitment to St. Thomas More Parish as we continue the mission and ministry of Jesus for this time and this place.

We are presently at the most exciting moment in the history of our Parish. We are ready to move forward with the build-out of our Parish Campus—our Permanent Church and our Parish Offices. The next two years will be so exciting! But this movement forward will need your commitment of time, talent, and treasure more than ever!

As we continue our reflection on Stewardship, I ask you to dig deep into your souls. There you will find and become aware of how good God is and how God has blessed us.

With that awareness, your stewardship of time, talent, and treasure, on behalf of St. Thomas More Parish, becomes a joy and a celebration!

Let us be mindful of the last words of St. Thomas More as he was beheaded, "The king's good servant, but God's first."

May his words strengthen us in our Christian Stewardship on behalf of our Parish as we embark upon the most exciting moment in the 25-year history of our Church.

*F. Mike*