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dear friends,

Last month we had our ICSC Region IX Stewardship Conference at the Savior Pastoral Center in Kansas City, KS. I want to thank all the pastors, parish staff and parish stewardship committee volunteers from our diocese that attended the conference. It was great to see so many people, eager to learn more about stewardship and how to help their parishioners learn to live a life of stewardship.



We were so blessed to have Fr. Golka, pastor of St. Patrick's Parish in North Platte, Nebraska as our keynote speaker. His presentation was outstanding!

Fr. Golka used the Greek word kenosis which means to self-empty, surrender or relinquish yourself to remind us what stewardship is all about. "Jesus emptied himself, gave his life for us." Have you surrendered yourself to God or do you give part of yourself, but not all?

Sometimes we think if we tithe 10% to our parish we have done enough, we have been good stewards. What about the remaining 90%? Did Jesus only give 10% of himself? No, we are asked to be good stewards of all that we have....100%! What does that mean? That means you are living a full life of stewardship, sharing your time, talents and resources...living a life of stewardship in your work, home-life and in your parish.

It is not easy, Jesus was challenged by many and I know we all struggle every day. But, if you "let the attitude of Jesus be in you," you will live your life differently....you will live your life for Jesus.

Fr. Golka....thank you for inspiring me and for reinforcing the importance of living a life of stewardship!

Sincerely,

Paula Moss
Vice Chancellor



grateful sharing

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grateful sharing

Celebrating Gifts of Time, Talent & Treasure

Spring, 2011

"you can always have them call me"

In December 2005, Bob and Jane* had no idea that they were embarking on a journey that would make them the most frequent and consistent charitable gift annuity (CGA) donors in the Diocese. "Heck, I just want to see how these things work and they sounded pretty good to me," Bob said as I finished explaining his first annuity.

Since 2005, they have funded seven more CGAs, totaling \$130,000 for causes ranging from their parish, their parish's and an inner city parish's food pantries, Catholic Charities and Propagation of the Faith. Indeed, we find that Bob and Jane have quietly invested in more varied ministries than any other annuitants in the long history of the over 35-year program.

Many of you who read Grateful Sharing know that some of our featured donors saved a lot because they did not incur the high cost of raising children. Bob and Jane are not that type. They raised and educated 10 children in Catholic Schools! Bob and Jane remember that, when their children were young, they were the absolutely best customers of a local dairy that delivered—literally gallons of milk, cheese and "chip chocolate ice cream". In recent years, even though they love it, Bob and Jane have given up ice cream "until we get old" (they are in their early 80's now). Maybe that is where they get the money for CGAs!

About three years ago, Bob volunteered that, "You can always have them call me" if a gift annuity prospect wanted to know about the program. Bob will gladly promote CGAs, based on his positive experience.

So how does a CGA work? A donor or two donors who are at least 65 years old give a sum of \$5,000 or more to the Diocese in exchange for a guaranteed promise of income for the life of the

donor or the survivor of the two donors. The rate of return is determined by the age of the donor(s)—the older the donor(s) at the time of the gift, the higher the return.

Rates are fixed throughout the term of any established annuity. Currently the rates on single life annuities are:

Age	Return
65	5.5%
70	5.8%
75	6.4%
80	7.2%
85	8.1%
90 and above	9.5%

Two-life annuities yield slightly less.

At the time of entering into an annuity, donors specify the charitable beneficiary(ies). The donor also specifies the frequency of payment (usually quarterly). In addition to the favorable return on the gift, a donor takes a charitable deduction at the time of the gift of between 30 and 60% of the gift value. CGAs promote a good feeling that comes from helping out favorite ministries. Clearly Bob and Jane's parish, food pantries, Catholic Charities, and Propagation of the Faith are blessed to have them.

If you would like be like Bob and Jane, please contact Greg Vranicar at 816-756-1858, ext. 529 or vranicar@diocesekcsj.org. We can provide confidential illustrations, applicable to your specific circumstances, upon request.

*Fictitious names to shield the identity of the donors. Published with donors' permission.

Two of the ministries that benefit by Bob and Jane's gift annuities are Christ the King Parish and St. Louis Parish Social Services.



left: Volunteers prepare for St. Louis Social Services' Meals on Wheels delivery of food to home-bound neighbors.

right top: Christ the King Parish at 85th and Wornall is an anchor for the neighborhood.

right bottom: St. Louis Parish women gather for a friendly game of bingo in the Parish Hall.



tax-free IRA gifts extended through december 2011

Did you know that federal law again allows tax-free charitable distributions from your IRA? Charitable taxpayers who are 70 and one-half or older can direct "qualified charitable distributions (QCDs)" from their IRA fund administrator directly to the charities of their choice, including one's parish, school or favorite ministry.

Anyone with an IRA who is 70 and one-half years old or older should explore this possibility. A QCD can be used to satisfy one's "required minimum distribution (rmd)" which is the legally required payment from one's IRA each calendar year.

The measure especially helps taxpayers who take the standard deduction. They can now give from their IRAs to charity and get credit and the distribution will not be added to their taxable income. All qualified donors should consider their IRA accounts as their primary "charity accounts" until December 31, 2011.

Form request letters are available through the Office of Stewardship and Development. Your donation must be acknowledged, so be sure to request it properly.

Over the years since 2006 when Congress first allowed QCDs, donors in our Diocese have led the nation in their generosity by giving to their parishes, schools and others ministries to the tune of about \$1.3 Million. We can add substantially to that total this year.

For the details about how you can do good through a QCD with your IRA, contact your legal or financial adviser--or Greg Vranicar at the Office of Stewardship & Development, 816.756.1858, ext. 529, or vranicar@diocesekcsj.org.

www.diocese-kcsj.org/stewardship

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to learn more about stewardship and planned giving, visit us on the Web: www.diocese-kcsj.org/waystogive
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what i have failed to do

Msgr. Thomas McGread never failed to have his bible at hand when he was presenting his many stewardship presentations. Those present would be reminded, in his Irish brogue, that the Bible is the textbook of stewardship. The "Spirituality of Stewardship" DVD formation series, recently produced by the Diocese of Wichita, further suggests that "textbooks" are typically taken to school. The Mass, the Holy Eucharist, then serves as well as the school of stewardship.

In the Mass, "the source and summit of the Christian life," we are called to dwell upon God's love, his gift of life, and the manner in which we, as individuals, are living that life in gratitude. How are we using and sharing that "gift of love/life" in love and service to God's mission on this earth?

At Mass, in the preparatory rites, we are all invited to participate in the "Penitential Rite" as we recite the following:

"I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault. In my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do; and I ask blessed Mary, ever virgin, all the angels and saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God."

In the examination and confession of our sinfulness, how well, if at all, do we dwell upon "what I have failed to do" rather than only on "what I have done?" As we recall our individual Baptismal call to discipleship and the further call to action in the Sacrament of Confirmation, how might we be failing in gratitude of God's grace and giftedness? Failure in doing so reflects a sin of omission, a decision not to love God. The question is one of "how well am I sharing my giftedness, my time, talent and treasure, in committed action, in love of God and in service to my parish, my diocese and the wider universal Church?"

Story by Dan Loughman of the Wichita, KS Diocese.

Do you want to go green? We are in the process of taking the newsletter on line. If you would like to receive the newsletter on line, please contact Kathy Sloss at: sloss@diocesekcsj.org.

a "bright future" for diocesan catholic school students

Announcing Bright Futures Fund

The mission of Bright Futures Fund is to make diocesan Catholic education affordable to any family—regardless of income or faith. Studies prove Catholic schools provide higher academic success than students from similar backgrounds in public schools. Here is proof:

- 98% of our Catholic high school graduates in our diocese go on to college.
- ACT scores in high schools score over 3.5 points higher than the national average
- Diocesan 6th grade students score more than 2 grade levels higher than the national norm

Our 38 diocesan schools have always operated on tight budgets with the support of faithful parishioners and many volunteers. Our schools cost less than half of what public schools cost to educate a child—saving taxpayers in Kansas City over \$143 million.

3rd annual strong city school fund



school bell breakfast

wednesday
may 11, 2011
7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
downtown marriott

Contact Brigette Chirpich: 816.714.2362 Chirpich@diocesekcsj.org

www.diocese-kcsj.org/stewardship



As the largest ministry of the Catholic Church, our schools need our help. Two Bright Futures Fund programs help those families with the greatest financial need. The Strong City School Fund (formerly Central City School Fund) provides scholarships to students in Kansas City's urban core. Honoring Family Scholarship applauds families with partial scholarships for students in a diocesan high school with a sibling in another diocesan school. As Bright Future Fund grows, other diocesan-wide financial programs will be created.

Your help will provide our children with the brightest future possible. Please share the hope and give generously. Donate online at www.brightfuturesfund.org or mail your tax deductible gift to PO Box 419037, Kansas City, Missouri 64141. Contact Kerry Essmann, Executive Director, for more information: 816.714.2356 or Essmann@diocesekcsj.org.

below:
Junior Board Members for the Bright Futures Fund present Bishop Finn the "Founders Gift" of \$5,000 raised through Jean's Days at Diocesan High Schools.



above:
Austin Alaiwat of St. John LaLande School won the "Name the Fund Contest" with his entry, "Bright Futures Fund," here together with Bishop Finn.



above:
Kerry Essmann, Bright Futures Fund Executive Director, addressing the capacity crowd at the Kick-Off event on January 27.



the catholic center - a new home to celebrate

The Catholic Center, seen from Baltimore Street proceeding north toward 9th Street. The classic style of the 10-story structure, the first skyscraper in Kansas City, is a contrast to some of its more modern neighbors. The building has been on the National Historic Register since 1970.



A close-up of the front of The Catholic Center. Note the iconic eagle landing above the marble entrance.

a thoughtful way to leverage a gift

Patrick Weidt (right) of Wells Fargo Home Mortgage hands a check for \$300.00 payable to Strong City School Fund to Greg Vranicar of the Stewardship and Development Office. Kate Mahoney (left) and her husband, Bill, recently purchased a home in Visitation Parish and used Wells Fargo Mortgage Company to finance their purchase. Kate and Bill participated in a voluntary charitable giving program by which Wells Fargo pays to the charity of the customer's choice a gift in the amount of \$300.00. Mr. Weidt encourages other potential lenders to inquire about this program which is a national effort by Wells Fargo Mortgage to support worthy local faith-based and nonprofit causes at no cost to borrowers.



To find out more information about the "Sharing Advantage Program," contact your nearest Wells Fargo mortgage adviser.