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Dear Friends,

“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” (Peter 4:10)



Throughout the year I occasionally hear a parishioner say, “I don’t want my tithe to support that ministry” or “I would rather my contribution only go to the ministries that I think are important.” I have even heard, “I think all of my giving should stay in my parish. We need it more than anyone else.” Although I understand the needs are great in parishes and ministries throughout our diocese, we must remember that through stewardship we are called to serve one another.

Stewardship is living out a commitment to be Christ-centered rather than self-centered. Profound gratitude, justice and love become the fundamental motives for giving back to God. Everything that God has given to us is intended to serve the divine plan. Therefore, our life is to be lived in gratitude toward God. In a variety of ways, we as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, share our time, talent and treasure to build up the Church and make our world a better place.

In October, your pastor will once again ask you to share your gifts through the Bishop’s Annual Appeal. Yes, we are asking you to make a gift to support the many ministries of the diocese that benefit your parish and our community. Most of us don’t realize, but we benefit from the following ministries supported by the Bishop’s Annual Appeal every day – Vocations, Catholic School Office, Catholic Charities, Young Adult and Campus Ministry, Diaconate Office, Bishop Helmsing Institute, Respect Life Office, Human Rights Office, Family Life Office and the list goes on.

I know the economy has been challenging and individuals and families are struggling. That is why it takes all of us to step forward and make a gift to the annual appeal. Did you know if every household in our diocese contributed just \$100 we would raise over \$5,000,000? More importantly, just think how many people we would be able to serve in our parishes and community.

As we kick-off the Bishop’s Annual Appeal on October 8 and 9th I hope that you will reach out and share your gifts to make the appeal a great success – volunteer to share your testimonial at Mass on why stewardship is important, share your talents in helping to organize the Bishop’s Annual Appeal in your parish, give your time to help with in-pew weekend, pray for the success of the appeal, and in gratitude make a gift to support the mission of the Church.

Thank you!

Paula Moss
Vice-Chancellor

grateful sharing

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upcoming estate planning seminars

The Office of Stewardship and Development offers Estate Planning Seminars for parishes, schools or other ministries. These sessions allow you to make sure that the assets that you have worked so hard to acquire go to the persons and causes that mean the most to you after your death. We consider related issues like durable powers of attorney and health care directives when time permits. Please check our web site or call 816.756.1858, ext. 529 for updates to this schedule.

Fall 2010 sessions currently scheduled include:

September 25 & 26 After Saturday & Sunday Masses	St. Munchin 300 N. Cedar Cameron, MO	Cameron: After 5:00 pm Sat. After 8:00 am Sun. Maysville: After 11:00 am Sun.
October 8 After 8:15 am Daily Mass	St. Bernadette 9020 E. 51st Terr. Kansas City, MO	RSVP 816.356.3700
October 10 After 8:30 am & 10:30 Masses	Coronation of Our Lady 13000 Bennington Grandview, MO	Continental Breakfast
October 11 7:00 pm	St. Peter’s Parish 815 E. Meyer Blvd. Kansas City, MO	RSVP 816.363.2320, ext.127 Leave a voice message
October 24 After 8:30 a.m Mass (About 9:45 am)	Guardian Angels 1310 Westport Rd. Kansas City, MO	RSVP 816.931.4351
November 21 Time TBA	Visitation Parish 5141 Main St Kansas City, MO	RSVP 816.753.7422, ext. 305 Leave a voice message

grateful sharing

Celebrating Gifts of Time, Talent & Treasure

Fall, 2010

marjorie neville

“a quiet, sweet presence with a deep compassion for others”



We all leave footprints of our existence. In Marjorie Neville’s case, her footprints are very soft and somewhat hard to follow. But her impact on others’ lives is profound. By looking at what Marjorie did with every cent of her assets at her death, we have a pretty good picture of a remarkable woman.

Marjorie Neville grew up on a farm near Glasgow in west-central Missouri not far from the Missouri River. Like many Missouri girls of her generation, she learned to love nature and the world around her. She cherished the seasons. She made snow angels in the first snowfall, watched the first crocus burst through in the spring and paid lots of attention to the birds of summer around the farm. She especially liked cardinals and always had sunflower seeds ready to feed them.

Marjorie’s parents taught their children right from wrong and especially to care for others—“to remember those less fortunate.” As adults, Marjorie and her sister moved to the Waldo area of Kansas City; Marjorie became a faithful member of St. Elizabeth Parish. After her sister died in 2001, Marjorie moved to John Knox Village in Lee’s Summit where she was a resident until her death in 2009.

Marjorie discovered her “inner artist” at John Knox. She did pottery, ceramics, and decorations that she shared with staff and residents. Her snowmen chalk drawings graced the official John Knox Christmas card one year.

But more than anything else, Marjorie created a legacy after her life ended. Though she was single and had no children, she prepared a detailed trust in 1989, fully twenty years before she passed away. She disposed of literally all of her considerable assets to charity.

Indeed, Marjorie left specific gifts to the parishes of St. Elizabeth in Kansas City and St. Mary in Glasgow. Her trust then sprinkled the remainder of her assets in 13 equal 6% shares to various social

service agencies, including Catholic Relief Services, and Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph. The final 22% share of Marjorie’s trust was designated for the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph for the “Seminary Burse Fund [or] the Priest’s Retirement Fund.”

We do not know how Marjorie Neville earned or accumulated her significant wealth. She may have inherited money from her family and, as the last to die, had much to share. One of her best friends summed up Marjorie’s life with these words, “She gave her warmth and generosity of spirit to all of us who had the privilege of being around her. Her quiet wisdom may have been what kept her going until age 96. She just knew everything would be all right.”

We thank Marcia Corbett for her summary of Marjorie’s life and for the photos that appear in this story.



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have you thought about a gift annuity? rates just went up

A charitable gift annuity is a contract, under which the Diocese, upon receiving a gift from a donor, agrees to pay a fixed amount of money to one or two individuals for their lifetime. At the time of the creation of the gift annuity, the donor designates one or more ultimate beneficiaries that will receive the portion of the gift remaining at the time of the death of the sole or remaining surviving annuitant.

You can fund a gift annuity with:

- Cash
- Marketable Securities, or
- Other easily marketable property

Let's look at a specific example: Mary, age 75, creates a Gift Annuity to benefit her parish at her death, in the amount of \$20,000 with a gift of cash. She will receive \$1,280 (6.4%) annually until she dies, of which nearly \$940 is tax-free. She can also deduct, in the year of the gift, or carry forward for up to five years, a tax deduction of \$8,351.

The return on all gift annuities is "locked in" for life, and is secured by the Diocese. Moreover the donor has the satisfaction of knowing that he or she has designated a ministry that will benefit from the remainder in the annuity at the time of the donor's death. In the Diocese, donors must be 65 to participate in the program and a minimum gift of \$5,000 applies. An annuity can name two persons as the "measuring lives"—this slightly reduces the rates of return shown below.

The newly revised rate schedule for single-life annuities is as follows:

Age	Rate of Return
65	5.5%
70	5.8%
75	6.4%
80	7.2%
85	8.1%

Since the mid-1980's, donors of the Diocese have benefited from the Gift Annuity program. Don't you think it is time for you to consider a Gift Annuity? If so, please contact Greg Vranicar at 816.756.1858, ext. 529 or vranicar@diocesekcsj.org for a personalized, confidential illustration of how a Gift Annuity can help you.

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.



excerpts from bishop finn's "stewardship: now is the time"

Spiritual stewardship reminds us that we don't exclusively own the things we often regard as ours – first and foremost our lives. We are entrusted with them for a time. We are obliged, morally, to use them for their proper end. That is clear in Scripture and in tradition.

Recently Archbishop Robert Carlson (of St. Louis) spoke about the three "P's" of stewardship: Prayer, Participation and Payback."

Prayer: do I tithe? Do I spend the best one-tenth of my time each day in conversation with God, talking but also listening to Him? If this is about growing in holiness, and my time is a gift from God, am I giving Him, not only an invitation, but ample opportunity to take charge of my life?

Participation: do we participate in and contribute to the life of our communities, our neighborhoods, our workplace? Do we bring our faith to bear in all the arenas of our life, particularly our secular life? How would our communities be better homes for our parishes if we were actively influencing them through authentic – full, active and conscious – participation?

Payback: Many of us received a Catholic education. If so it is likely that our parents made some sacrifices – some generous choices that cost them. Now it is pay back time. What have we received? What have we inherited in the parishes where we worship? What will our generation create for those who come after us? Clearly the payback is to God. He is the giver of the lasting gifts we have received – and which make us who we are.

I believe my responsibility today, as your bishop, is to entrust to you this message: **now is the time.**

So – will you help, my dear friends, to make this special and sacred moment for stewardship in the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph? Share with us your expertise, your experience in making this work, your time, talent and treasure. I am convinced that the Holy Spirit is ready to help us. I am convinced that **now is the time.**

For the entire text of Bishop Finn's remarks on Stewardship Day, see http://www.diocese-kcsj.org/_docs/Bishop_Finn_Stewardship_Talk_2010.pdf



the bishop helmsing institute

promoting faith through instruction and engagement



Funded in large part by the Bishop's Annual Appeal, the Bishop Helmsing Institute (BHI) provides catechetical and spiritual formation for the laity. The Institute was founded in 2006 by Bishop Finn after a year of extensive consultation and planning. We offer courses that cover a variety of topics including an extensive study of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and Sacred Scripture.

The overriding purpose of BHI is to deepen the faith and spiritual life of our students-- to help them effectively 'think with the Church' about issues in the modern world. Individuals may study for personal enrichment and faith development. Those who desire a more rigorous course may enroll in a three-year intensive training program. Since 2006, the Institute has graduated 67 catechists from its three-year program. In the same period, over 1000 students, from more than 70 different parishes, have taken at least one BHI course.

BHI reach out to the north in Maryville and Chillicothe, the south at Clinton, Montrose and Nevada, and the east in Richmond, Lexington and Warrensburg. BHI also has an online class program. During the 2010-2011 year, we offer 13 regular evening and daytime courses weekly at different sites in Kansas City and St. Joseph.

During this difficult economic time, we have substantially lowered our tuition rate. In 2010-2011, we charge only \$ 30.00 per course. Tuition assistance is also available; no student is ever turned away due to financial need.

BHI has a team of five full-time staff and we employ more than 20 adjunct instructors. We engage students in both Spanish and English. We also assist Directors of Religious Education and RCIA leaders. BHI offers a comprehensive resource and media lending library and a bookstore.

BHI assists in the certification of all diocesan school teachers from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade. This school year we offer more than 20 special courses for grade school teachers at all four diocesan high schools. BHI staff will offer training at the diocesan teacher staff development day in February, 2011. BHI also supports Directors of Religious Education and RCIA leaders.

Faith development in the Diocese has been enriched by the significant efforts of the Bishop Helmsing Institute. For more information about BHI, please view its web site at: www.calledtofaith.org or call 816.756.1850, ext. 250



We thank Scott McKellar, Director of BHI, for his input for this story.

