

## in this issue

2012 annual appeal

a note from the vice chancellor

language of stewardship

preparing our children

schoolbell breakfast

the best way to give: iras

save the date! diocesan stewardship day

Dear Friends,

Recently I was having a conversation with my 16 year old son, a sophomore in high school and a new "legal" driver. I was trying to talk about responsibility. For some reason, this new independence factor of being able to drive a car and not stay at home as much, made me want to remind him of being a responsible young man (lots of prayers are said each day for his safety as well!).



It was an interesting conversation and it seemed like only yesterday I was conversing with him as a 5th grader and his responsibilities of bringing home the science room guinea pig for the weekend....wow, how time flies and responsibilities change.

I take the responsibility of launching the Bishop's Annual Appeal every year very seriously. Why? Because people are depending on us, people like....

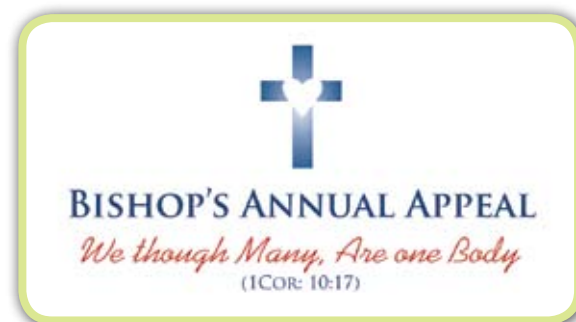
- Maura, mother of four, recently visited the Catholic Charities Father Hix food pantry and stopped by the nurse to ask about pain relievers because she suffers from arthritis. Maura had been supplementing arthritis medication with over-the-counter painkillers to save money. This combination had sent her into kidney failure. The nurse recognized the signs and urged her to seek immediate medical help. According to Maura's doctor, the young mother was within days of serious hospitalization and likely death—the nurse's intervention saved her life.
- A young mother felt she was losing her twelve year old son to the life of gangs in the public school system in her neighborhood. She never thought she would be able to afford to send her son to a Catholic school, but with the assistance from Bright Futures Fund her son is thriving and safe in one of our urban core schools.
- In 2011-2012, 10 seminarians will be ordained for the diaconate and the priesthood. Through support of the Vocation's Office young men are able to continue in their education and formation which often costs around \$28,000 annually for each seminarian.

Families, children, young men and women depend on the support of the annual appeal every day in our diocese. That is why I take the responsibility so seriously. One hundred percent of all contributions to the Annual Appeal support people in our parishes and our community. I hope you will join us this year with a contribution to the Annual Appeal and continue to help those in need.

Sincerely,

*Paula Moss*

Paula Moss  
Vice-Chancellor



grateful sharing

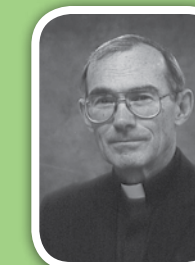
The Office of Stewardship & Development  
Diocese of Kansas City~St. Joseph  
P.O. Box 419037  
Kansas City, MO 64141-6037

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
KCMO #6084

[www.diocese-kcsj.org/stewardship](http://www.diocese-kcsj.org/stewardship)

# save the date!

Bishop Robert Morneau • Keynote Address  
April 20, 2012  
Diocesan Stewardship Day



The Office of Stewardship and Development, with the able help of a dedicated committee, will present the 2012 edition of Diocesan Stewardship Day at St. Mark's Parish in Independence on Friday, April 20, 2012. Bishop Robert Morneau of Green Bay, WI will present the keynote talk at the Conference. Please save the date for this important day of networking, learning and recommitting to a way of life devoted to our Lord.

As his website biography states, Bishop Robert Morneau "is considered the U.S. Catholic Church's premier resource on stewardship, an expression of discipleship through which we gratefully receive God's gifts, tenderly care for them, generously share them, and humbly return them to God."

In addition to Bishop Morneau's keynote, we plan to have breakouts led by both local and out-of-town experts on such important topics as:

- Social networking like Facebook, Linked-in and You-Tube
- Forming and energizing a Stewardship Committee
- Reaching out to homebound, former and needful members
- Stewardship for children and youth
- Service learning in schools and schools of religion
- Stewardship in a small parish "when it is not all you do"
- Developing a pastoral plan
- How are stewardship and development different?
- Communicating the spirituality message

# grateful sharing

Celebrating Gifts of Time, Talent & Treasure

Fall, 2011

## faces of the 2012 annual appeal



When you contribute to the Bishop's Annual Appeal the funds collected support an extraordinary range of services to parishes as well as the people of the Diocese of Kansas City – St. Joseph. 100% of your gift goes directly to serve those in ministries, services and programs in our diocese:

**EDUCATION & FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES**  
Catholic School Office  
Bright Futures Fund  
Bishop Helmsing Institute

**SOCIAL SERVICES & OUTREACH MINISTRIES**  
Catholic Charities  
Human Rights Office  
Parish Based Ministry

**PASTORAL MINISTRIES**  
Family Life Office  
Respect Life  
Vocation Office  
Office for Consecrated Life  
Worship Office  
Diaconate Program  
Hispanic Ministry  
Young Adult and Campus Ministry  
Priestly Life and Ministry  
Office of Youth Ministry



Mark your calendars for October 29 – 30, 2011 for the 2011/2012 Bishop's Annual Appeal Kick-Off Weekend!

grateful sharing

is published three times a year by the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph. It is provided free of charge.

**publisher**  
Stewardship & Development Office  
of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph

**editor-in-chief**  
Marcia Skinner

**address changes and inquiries:**  
Grateful Sharing Newsletter  
Stewardship & Development Office  
Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph  
PO Box 419037  
Kansas City, MO 64141-6037  
Phone: 816.756.1850

**to learn more** about stewardship and planned giving, visit us on the Web: [www.diocese-kcsj.org/waystogive](http://www.diocese-kcsj.org/waystogive)  
You may also contact:  
**Paula Moss**  
Vice Chancellor  
816.756.1858, ext. 562  
or email: [moss@diocesekcsj.org](mailto:moss@diocesekcsj.org)  
**Greg Vranicar**  
Planned Giving  
816.756.1858, ext. 529  
or email: [vranicar@diocesekcsj.org](mailto:vranicar@diocesekcsj.org)

[www.diocese-kcsj.org/stewardship](http://www.diocese-kcsj.org/stewardship)

## conversion is the language of stewardship

Author of Sacred Scripture Fr. Ronald Witherup once wrote about conversion of the apostle Paul, "Paul's conversion is as dramatic a turning point as any in history. Whatever happened on the road to Damascus, the experience was powerful enough to turn the infant Church's most passionate opponent into its champion... Paul's life is a witness that conversion is not a one-time event, but a lifetime of commitment."

And so it is with the "stewardship way of life." "Stewardship is not a one-time event, but a lifetime of commitment." It isn't simply a designated period of time each year that comes and goes in the guise of being a parish program with activities and certain days to do this or that. And for most of us, it all begins with a conversion of sorts to the stewardship way of life. We are all "works" in progress, constantly discovering and learning to be Disciples of Christ. There are conversions waiting to happen in all of us.

Some say that the only way that Christ could get Paul's attention was to literally knock him off his horse. As Paul hit the ground, the ground hit him and his life was changed forever. I imagine there were times when he said of the experience, "I didn't know what hit me." And still other times, more often than not, Paul knew that it was Christ Himself who "hit" him with the power of His grace – which became the foundation of his conversion.



Has the stewardship way of life caught your attention yet? Have you been noticing that Christ is changing our lives in the parish in which we live and celebrate the sacraments? Have you been "converted" to the stewardship way of life? We believe that Jesus Christ

is calling of us to be His disciples, and He wants to get our attention. He got Paul's attention and changed him forever. Let's learn from Paul the language of stewardship. I guarantee, Jesus is going to get our attention; even if it takes getting "knocked off our horse."

Fr. Dave Zimmer, Stewardship Reflection from *The Catholic Steward.com*

## preparing our children for the future Bright Futures Fund

The newly formed Bright Futures Fund helps prepare children for their future by providing financial assistance to families who desire quality Catholic education in our diocesan schools. The following letter highlights some of the reasons why Catholic education is so important for families.



From an unsolicited and extremely eloquent letter of a parent:

### Why do I send my kids to a Catholic School?

I believe there is a foundation – a rock of faith – in my soul that cannot be washed away. The faith that I have is that decency and goodness will prevail over all, no matter how much time it takes for this to happen. . . .

My faith has taught me to know right from wrong, and guided me when times get difficult. My faith has taught me to try to do the right thing – and to be patient enough to stand back for a moment when necessary to really know what that might mean. My faith taught me to have compassion for others and to believe that we are each unique and special – with so many talents and gifts to share with the world. . . .

My faith is Catholicism – but I don't see it as a denomination. My faith is a crucial building block for me to know my core set of values. I value life. I value thought. I value respect and treating others as we want to be treated. I value education. I value music. I value family, love, and friends. I value my community. I value justice. I value understanding, compassion, and spirituality. I value truth.

I value my children above all else. I will give them the foundation that has allowed me to learn that forgiveness is crucial, and understanding is worth the effort. I will give them the gift of knowing what really matters in this world is who they are inside their hearts. . . .

I know this. I know this because of my faith that I received from my own Catholic education.

Visit:

[www.brightfuturesfund.org](http://www.brightfuturesfund.org)



Armando Mesa was a keynote speaker at the School Bell Breakfast. He is pictured here with his parents, sister and grandmother.

## school bell breakfast

The school bell woke up about 500 guests on May 11, 2011 to celebrate and witness the energy and talent of the students who attend our three Strong City Schools: Holy Cross, Our Lady of the Angels and Our Lady of Guadalupe.



The over \$106,000 raised through your generosity will provide financial assistance to over 400 families who value Catholic education just like our eloquent parent does.

We sincerely thank all our donors and corporate sponsors on whose sacrifice we so strongly depend. All scholarships to Strong City Schools are based on need and supplement the contributions of parents or grandparents in Kansas City's urban core who struggle to provide their children with a quality Catholic education. Our Strong City Schools are their road map to success.

Thank you for helping create Smart.Strong.Students.



## gifts from iras the best way to give, dead or alive!

In 2009 The Investment Company Institute found that Americans hold more than \$215 billion of their retirement savings in IRAs. Of this total, 19.5 million families hold Roth IRAs and 38.5 Million families own Traditional IRAs. These figures show that IRA accounts are "where the money is."

How might these funds be used by donors to accomplish charitable giving? Are there tax advantages to using IRA funds for charitable giving instead of other assets?

1. Advantages of giving from an IRA at one's death: Designating a gift for a charity from an IRA at one's death requires no intervention of an attorney or other professional. Using a "beneficiary designation form," obtained by one's IRA fund manager (usually even on the internet), one can change beneficiaries. No trip to the lawyer's office, no witnesses or notaries, and no long delays while waiting to get one's wishes put down on paper. (The only exception may be that a spouse may have to consent to a distribution that denies the spouse part of the estate, but this is not even required in many cases.) One should plan which assets and how much is designated for charity, but this is very easy to accomplish.
2. Tax advantages: By giving from an IRA, one reduces one's taxable estate for purposes of determining whether any estate tax might be due. From 2010 to 2012, this matters only to those who own, in their own right, over \$5 Million in assets—so not very many of us! However, the exemption of \$5 Million expires in 2012 under current law. Another tax advantage is that distributions of IRAs to survivors (other than spouses) produce ordinary income to the recipients. IRAs are "pregnant with untaxed gains" and Uncle Sam wants his bite.
3. Giving from an IRA while alive, IRA owners who are 70 ½ and older: Since 2006, the greatest tax advantage of IRA giving has helped those who are 70 ½ or older. They can designate a charity to receive any portion of their IRA (up to \$100,000) and this distribution will not be taxable to the donor. (Individuals receiving funds from traditional IRAs usually pay income tax on the full distribution at the ordinary income tax rate of the recipient.) "Tax-free IRA Gifts" have accounted for over \$1.3 Million flowing to the Diocese's parishes, schools and other ministries in the past 4+ years. One must ensure that the IRA administrator is clearly instructed to pay directly to the charity and that an acknowledgment letter in a specific format is received from the charity. The Diocese has developed forms for IRA gifts within its jurisdiction and so these are relatively easy requirements. Such a distribution counts dollar-for-dollar against the taxpayer's "required minimum distribution" for the tax year. Because this provision expires on December 31, 2011, one might consider using this type of gift to "pay forward" one's pledge for the coming year.

Charitable planning with IRAs can avoid this tax on distribution at death.

For more information about giving from one's IRAs, consult your attorney, tax or financial planner or contact Greg Vranicar at the Office of Stewardship and Development, 816-756-1858, ext. 529, [vranicar@diocesekcsj.org](mailto:vranicar@diocesekcsj.org).

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](mailto:sloss@diocesekcsj.org).