

The Seven Signs of a Stewardship Parish

- 1 Prayer
- 2 Hospitality
- 3 Accountability
- 4 Outreach
- 5 Renewal and Commitment
- 6 Lay Witness
- 7 Stewardship Committee

A key aspect of our mission as disciples is Outreach to our community. Knowing Jesus and His love for us, and showing, teaching, and living the Good News in our lives is our calling as Good Stewards. Transfiguration has taken this message to heart, and continues to be a leader in Oakdale, in Ramsey and Washington counties, in our Archdiocese and beyond in fulfilling the message that Jesus instilled in us. We have a legacy and reputation as a parish that is admirable.

We are blessed to have Fr. Bob as our pastor and leader. He refuses for us to be complacent and to rest on our laurels. He has and will continue to challenge us to reach out to the least among us, to the impoverished, to those marginalized humans on the edge of our cultures. He has challenged us as a faith community to embrace a major Outreach project this fall through the not-for-profit Christian service agency, "Feed My Starving Children".

I wrote briefly in a May article of our commitment to this progress. In the meantime, a dedicated committee of parishioners has begun the organization of our event that will prepare, package, store, and ship over 270,000 meals for impoverished people around the globe. The effort calls for us to organize hundreds of adults and children to achieve our goals during four days in November. Of equal challenge is raising \$46,000 to purchase the raw materials that make up the meal ingredients. Fr. Bob met this week with a group of area churches who he has inspired to join us in this effort.

Our commitment to Outreach is demonstrated every week by our food shelf for the needy in our local community. Few of us have ever gone to bed hungry, or have gone a whole day without a meal. This project reaches those who live this dilemma every day of their lives, in a level of poverty that we can hardly imagine. Please share a gift of \$1000, or purchase a roll of M & Ms for a dollar, enjoy the candy and return the tube full of quarters to us (for a gift of \$14), or make a gift of some amount in between. Organize an M&M campaign for your neighborhood, scout troop, card club, with work friends. Our small part in feeding starving children is pleasing to our God, and the least we can do with our abundances.