



Dear Parishioners:

April 22, 2024

Spring is upon us. Our Lord, Jesus Christ, has risen and our world is coming alive after a long, dark winter. His resurrection brings light, new life, and an abundance of joy! Last fall St. Mary's Cathedral held its first stewardship renewal since COVID. As we move forward, our annual stewardship renewal will be held in spring, to coincide with the abundance that the resurrection brings. It is the perfect opportunity for all of us to reflect on our gifts and their use.

Our 2024 stewardship theme, **Share the Light**, is an invitation for us to ignite our faith and share the light of Christ with others. Pope Francis said, "Faith is passed on by contact, from one person to another, just as one candle is lighted from another." At the Easter vigil, we see this very thing. We light the Easter fire, from this, light the Pascal candle, and acclaim the light of Christ. From this candle, we light hundreds of others, passing the flame from person to person until the entire church is illuminated with candlelight. It is a glorious sight!

Stewardship is simply recognizing that everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God. Every person is a steward and has unique gifts which he or she is able to offer. I invite you to reflect on how you are using your gifts and commit to using them over the next year.

In addition, I want to share with you my pastoral priorities for the upcoming year. These priorities build upon the great work that is already happening at St. Mary's and guide us as we continue to respond to the vast needs of our parish community.

- Creating a Culture of Hospitality, Welcome and Collaboration
- Engaging Youth and Young Adults
- Strengthening Our Catholic Identity
- Proclaiming the Gospel in Word and Deed

We ask that you prayerfully reflect on your gifts and your time, and fill out the enclosed Commitment form. These Commitment forms are also available online and can be turned in anytime between now and Stewardship Sunday on May 5th. When filling out the Commitment forms, we ask that you consider your entire family's needs, and that **each individual family member fill out a separate form.**

I am grateful for the gifts of prayer, participation in the parish, and financial generosity to the church. I pray that this Easter season will be a holy and prayerful time for you and your families.

Thank you for being the best part of St. Mary's Cathedral - let's MAKE A DIFFERENCE together.

Faithfully in Christ,

*Fr. Jorge Canela*

Fr. Jorge Canela, Rector