

WHAT ARE THE GOOD THINGS WE DO WITH OUR MONEY?

December 2011

With gratitude for your gifts not only of time and talent, but also treasure, you live the words of our Parish Mission Statement, "We respond to God's call through ... fostering stewardship as a way of life." Your gift of treasure enables our parish to do the good works Christ calls us to each day. How does your financial gift do this?

Your generosity in the poor boxes and private donations enables the Parish Outreach Office to serve the clients who come to us with their various needs. Distribution of food and food vouchers are the result of you sharing your resources.

You foster education of our children and youth. Your contributions enable us to meet the subsidy which our parish is responsible for in maintaining Long Beach Catholic Regional School. In our own Parish Religious Education program, student supplies are provided through your financial stewardship.

To assist us as a praying community, we purchase seasonal missalettes and supplies needed for our liturgical celebrations. With your help we engaged in preparation for the Roman Missal Third Edition by having two meetings and a guest speaker for those in our parish ministries, as well as purchasing the pew cards and Order of Mass booklets. When you contribute financially to the parish, you enable us to offer an annual Parish Mission. With your generosity we can fund the expenses of our beautiful choir and our contemporary music group. During the seasons of Advent, Lent and Easter we have distributed the "Little Books" for that season. So many people have told us how the brief daily meditations really hit home. Because of you, on Thanksgiving, Mother's Day, Father's Day and Pentecost, we distributed a memento related to the feast. In this way you carry home our wishes for you on that day.

To assist new parents in preparation for their child's baptism, we provide them with a Parent Baptism book and prayer card for families.

We want to highlight both the ordinary and important moments in our lives. Our Tri-Parish Bereavement Program, our own Ministry of Consolation and our annual All Souls Mass benefit from your generosity. Through your donations we offer hospitality and the opportunity to meet one another after the 10:00 Mass during certain months. At our recent fourth annual wedding anniversary celebration the parish acknowledged certain anniversaries and invited the couples and their family members to participate in a light lunch.

And - because of you, the computers, printers & copiers run, the telephones work, the mail goes through and internet connections are maintained.

So that all this may take place, paid staff and volunteers are integral. When the diocese offers updating and in-service training for staff and volunteers, your generosity allows us to participate. In this way we can serve you more professionally. Your stewardship of treasure means we can distribute our Parish Ministry Directory to show graphically the good works of the parish. By working together with our two sister parishes on our barrier island, and because of your stewardship of time and talent, we are able to keep a very small staff. They do deserve a raise that they have not gotten in several years.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Together we are St. Ignatius Martyr Parish.