Greetings and welcome to this special parish Newsletter on Stewardship. As our Cathedral of the Assumption family begins a new year together in our faith journey, I want to thank the many hands that pitch in to make all we dream a reality. In this newsletter, you will find a spotlight on seven stewards/parishioners from our Cathedral, compiled and edited by Martha Villiger; an article on The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy written and edited by Don Kavanaugh; Stewardship Discernment forms from our stewardship committee; the giftedness of Tristan Padua, who does the layout for our newsletters, all of which made this collective work not only possible but a true reflection of giving of self.

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?’ ‘Here I am,’ I said, ‘send me!’” (Isaiah 6:8)

Every day – in little ways and in big ways – God asks, “Whom shall I send?” Whether it is someone to take on a new ministry, or just someone to open a door for a stranger, God constantly provides doors of opportunity. The next time you hear God calling, have the courage to walk through the door and say, “Here I am Lord.” Together let’s make the Year of Mercy the door we enter to experience God’s love and abundance.

Peace to all,
Fr. Jeff

In this issue

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Special Stewardship Issue

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HELP WANTED
Volunteers Needed!
A Personal Glimpse of Stewardship

“...But you are a ‘chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises’ of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” (1 Pt. 2:9)* We bring you these shared messages lovingly written, hoping to inspire you, our parishioners, to think about your possible call to stewardship.

* Handbook of Ushers and Greeters, Office of Liturgy, Columbus Diocese

Margaret Brosko

Parish Council - few hours / month
Stewardship Committee (chair/quarterback concierge program) 10-15 hours / month
Lector every other month
Have helped with RCIA and served as Eucharist Minister in the past.

I love our Catholic faith. Part of that involves helping others become engaged and active in their communities, whether it’s the Parish or larger community. It is what God calls us all to do. Helping others maximize their gifts opens our own hearts and certainly challenges and motivates me to do more.

There is so much going on in our world, nation, state and city. From terrorism to race relations to the definition and acceptance of untraditional families, our Catholic Church has an opportunity to lead and set an example similar to that of Jesus on earth. This year of mercy calls upon all of us to reflect and make a commitment to become the new disciples, to love and respect one another. At times, the church is slow to lead. Historically, at times, this has occurred when genuine, compassionate and loving leadership is needed the most. This year of mercy is an opportunity to pray, reflect, accept and seek forgiveness for our sins. But more important, it is a time to change our shortcomings and prejudices - to ask God to intervene and help lead us and inspire us to lead others to a peaceful time. It's easy to hide behind present day interpretations. It is difficult to follow in Jesus' footsteps, loving and forgiving everyone. I pray the Holy Spirit will guide and enlighten all of us to open our hearts during this year of amazing opportunity.

Carolynn Hall

This past year my spiritual journey took an unanticipated turn. A little over a year ago by an indirect invitation, I became a server at the noon Mass. I am not really sure why I was so quick to say, “I’ll do it.” Maybe my natural impulsiveness was given a divine nudge. If I had thought about it a little bit more, I may have said, “Thanks, but no thanks. That’s not for me.” For instance, my comfort zone is not sitting in the front. For some reason, I would just rather sit in back. I could easily have reasoned that I am already doing a lot of stewardship here on top of my very busy personal life. And perhaps my biggest objection might have been the fact that servers are doing things in front of everybody. I am not shy and I can follow procedures, but what if I mess up? I have a strong desire to be really good at whatever I do. However, in my personal experience I make ridiculous mistakes, especially when someone is watching me. ( Seriously… I cannot read a ruler if someone is looking over my shoulder). Well… I am so lucky that I was open to something new and I just said, “sure, I’ll do it,” because being a server at the noon Mass has been a wonderful religious experience for me. Sitting in the front is not bad at all. In fact, it’s good. It’s very good. Who knew? Being in front and a physical part of the activity allows me to be more focused on every part of the liturgy and the Sacrament of Sacraments, the Eucharist. When I am not doing a task, I am just praying like I always have with my Cathedral family. The team that makes this Cathedral of the Assumption Mass one of the best in town has been so supportive. When I have made my inevitable learning curve mistakes, they don’t even bat an eye. They give me reminders and cues during Mass. They give me pointers and advice afterwards. I get more and more comfortable with each experience because it’s a team atmosphere; it’s not about us as individuals. It’s about God living through us in our relationships with each other.

The Cathedral needs servers at all masses, especially the noon Mass. I am directly inviting you to join the server team. If not you, then maybe you know someone who may want to be asked but doesn’t know it yet. That’s what my friend Carmen did for me. (good call Carmen!). I’d like to end by paraphrasing a prayer that was written by Thomas Merton, who would have been 101 on Jan 31st. For me, it fits the call to stewardship:

...the fact that I think I am following God’s will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that my desire to please God does in fact please God...and I hope to have that desire in all that I do.

Please feel free to ask me any questions you may have (in person or by email). I am the Parish Council Representative for the Formation Committee, so my Cathedral email address can be found in the bulletin.

Joan Huber

I am the Youth Minister at the Cathedral on a volunteer basis, I lead Children’s Liturgy of the Word during Sunday 9:30 Mass, I am chair of the Formation Committee and on Worship committee. Most of my time is spent planning for my Youth Group, which is for the high school aged youth in our parish. I want to make sure I am offering topics or activities to help them grow into their faith. I am there to walk with them in their faith journey and ensure we are building relationships with each other. As the Youth Minister, I see my role as someone who gives the youth opportunities to encounter God. This past November I took a small group to the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indiana. I let the youth and their parents know about retreat opportunities the Archdiocese offers for high school youth. I coordinate speakers to come in and talk to the youth. We have had people come in to talk about vocations, Right to Life issues; we had a couple come and talk about their medical vocation and treating people in Kenya, and being a young adult and being Catholic. Children’s Liturgy of the Word is at the beginning of 9:30 Mass on Sundays for ages 4-7. I ensure that I know what the Gospel readings are for each Sunday and make the message relevant for them. This can be done

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through a variety of ways such as games, acting out the Gospels, song and prayer. My main focus for Children’s Liturgy of the Word is to help the younger youth start to the love God has for them. The main reason I am on the Formation and Worship committees is to work with fellow parishioners to help our parish to have chances to encounter God and to have a prayerful worship experience. Through the Archdiocese I have my Associate Catechist Certificate and Youth Ministry Certificate. I am working on my Masters in Theology through Loyola University New Orleans Ministry Extension Program. My concentration will be in Youth Ministry. I will graduate December 2017. I have also recently taken a position on the Teens Encountering Christ National Board representing the retreat communities in Kentucky. My main service is to the youth of the Cathedral. About five years ago the youth minister/DRE for the Cathedral was leaving for another job. We had an amazing high school group. I felt the calling from God to work with them. There were several times that I ignored that call. Finally, through prayer and discernment, I answered that call, and I have never looked back. I love the energy that our high school youth have. Our youth need to know they are welcomed, and they need to know God and community love them.

During the Year of Mercy, I want to be able to give my youth examples of the Corporal Works of Mercy and show them how they can practice these Works of Mercy in their faith life, school life and home life. I would like for others to see Christ in them.

**Rita Owens**

My name is Rita Owens and I have been with the Cathedral for a little over 20 years. Before I retired, I felt very limited in how I could be involved, but I chose to be a Eucharistic Minister and be involved in the Repair Affair. I felt that being a Eucharistic Minister would help me be more of a part of the Mass, and with the Repair Affair, I would be helping a small group of others in fixing up a home that needed small repairs, and it only required one day out of my life. Well, in December 13, 2012, I retired from Jefferson County Public Schools and decided I could do more. So now, I am still a Eucharistic Minister, in charge of the Repair Affair, answering phones on Mondays in the Parish Office, working in the Soup Kitchen on Tuesdays, on the Bereavement Committee, and helping with the mailings when I’m called. Being involved means meeting some of the BEST.

Being a Eucharistic Minister involves an original training, which is about 4 hours, and then a renewal after that. There really was no training for Repair Affair, just be handy with the hammer, painting or whatever -- I have had a fantastic team and we all do it together for one day.

I’m usually in the Soup Kitchen from 9:30 - 1:30, but others might come in at 10:00 or 10:30. During the summer months from July to October, I travel out to Gallrein Farms in Shelbyville to get produce for the lunch program. I usually leave home at 8:00 and arrive at the Cathedral about 9:30 or 10:00. They give me a carload of fresh vegetables for free -- very generous people. Then, I answer phones on Mondays from 10:00-3:00.

I will be asked by the captains of the Bereavement Committee, Jackie Lydon or Linda Metts, to either make something or serve at a luncheon when someone passes away, but this has not been very often. I have worked with Hand-in-Hand Ministries down in Appalachia and Habitat for Humanity helping to actually build houses, and I am just drawn to it, so that's why Repair Affair means a lot to me. I know that the persons living in the homes need the help and are very appreciative. If I know how to do it, God gave me the talent and aren't we supposed to use those talents? Besides, I couldn't ask for more talented help than Ron Mets, Tim Grimes, and the others. I recently went to Jerome, Haiti for 12 days to work, and I would do it again. David Pickett, Don Cavanaugh, Gary Boice, Jack Lydon and others could share their experience in Haiti--great guys! I lived on a farm when I was little, so I guess the produce and helping in the kitchen just fell into place. My father was a very giving person, and his generosity has always echoed in my ear. So, feeding the hungry means giving others a chance to have a good meal and not starve. As far as answering the phones in the office, it was time to step up when it was needed, after Marsha Kahl's husband died, and she retired--after all, I get to talk with some interesting people. The Bereavement Committee does a fantastic meal because of the generosity of many who donate their dishes of food, etc. The families of the deceased are always amazed at the tasty food. And finally, being a Eucharistic Minister makes me feel closer to the Body and Blood of Christ. There is part of a prayer that I always say at the end of Communion: “My God, I offer Thee this day, all I shall think or do or say, uniting it with what was done on earth by Jesus Christ, Thy Son.” I want to mirror what he did.

**Leslie Smart**

When Father Jeff asked me to consider writing about tithing as preparation for the Cathedral’s annual stewardship journey, I didn’t even think twice before resounding with “absolutely!”

I’ve spent the majority of my professional career as a fundraiser in the Louisville community, so I’ve had a little practice asking for philanthropic support, but the topic of tithing goes much deeper for me. It’s a concept introduced to me by my parents at a very young age. They taught me that tithing was simply doing our part and that I would receive far more than I would give. It was not an option but a priority that would reap benefits for so many. They were so very right.

My husband John and I feel truly blessed. We are so immensely grateful for the church family we found here together at the Cathedral. You’ve welcomed us with love and kindness. It’s that gratitude and humility that motivates us to invest in our parish through tithing, and we’ve learned that our giving only multiplies the receiving and enhances our spiritual journey.

I believe this year is particularly important for two reasons. First we’ve received a very special invitation from Pope Francis. The Year of Mercy is an invitation – an invitation of love, kindness, and unbounded generosity. Pope Francis is offering you the opportunity to encounter the incredible mercy of God. It can transform your life, your relationships, your work, and your ability to embrace and experience all of life.

Second, your annual financial commitment to the Cathedral is the foundation of our ministry. Your generous weekly tithing funds everything we do, most important, our beautiful liturgy, which is the essence of why we all love our parish, the mother church of the Archdiocese.

We are so proud of the impact that the Cathedral has had in our community. The Feed My Neighbor initiative, still in its infancy, has raised awareness throughout the city about the needs of the underserved with an overwhelming response and simultaneously raised significant philanthropic dollars. Our global mission work in Haiti continues to impact the most vulnerable. And just this past year, we honored the first woman in the region in a public venue, as Mother Catherine Spalding’s statue took center stage as a tribute to her legacy again, to serve the poor and needy around the world. Her presence serves as a model for everyone to emulate her grace and kindness.

Last summer I stood before this congregation and asked for members to increase their giving to help meet the urgent financial needs of our parish, and you responded. I received numerous letters with suggestions, ideas, and fellow parishioners offering to help serve on the finance committee, parish council and more.

Our financial position is improving because of you, and we

(Continued on page 6)
**Discerning Financial Tithing**

Financial tithing is more than putting an envelope in the collection basket every week. It is an act of worship and obedience. We encourage you to prayerfully reflect and determine an intentionality to your giving.

Greater than just a general sense of gratitude, tithing is a tangible response of gratitude for God’s blessings and an acknowledgement of God as the giver of our blessings. Tithing is a trust offering of our “first fruits” knowing that it is ultimately God that “gives us our daily bread.”

In prayerful thanksgiving for the many blessings received from God, I/we commit to the Cathedral of the Assumption a proportional amount of my/our income for 2016:

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\end{align*}
\]

**Automatic Bank Withdrawal** - Electronic Transfer of Stewardship is available. If you are interested in more information, please check here.

**For current Automatic Bank Withdrawal users** - Beginning February 1, 2016, I/we wish to contribute:

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\text{\$} & \ __/\text{week} \quad \text{or} \quad \text{\$} \ _/\text{month}.
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\]

to be withdrawn

\[\square\text{ weekly} \quad \square\text{mid-month} \quad \square\text{end of month}\]

**Planned Giving**

The Bishop Flaget Society is an association of men and women whose generous gifts to the Cathedral of the Assumption will help to endow the tradition of outreach to the community, the mission of service to those in need, and the liturgical, spiritual and educational ministries begun by Bishop Benedict Joseph Flaget.

\[\square\text{ I am already a member of the Bishop Flaget Society.}\]

\[\square\text{ I have already included the Cathedral in my estate plans; enroll me as a member in the Bishop Flaget Society.}\]

\[\square\text{ Please have a member of the Bishop Flaget Society Committee contact me with more information.}\]

**Stewardship**

*Share yourself: an investment that makes things happen!*

This Stewardship form will be discussed throughout January, Stewardship month, at weekend Masses during homilies and by members of the Stewardship and Cathedral Concierge Committees after Mass. We ask you to please prayerfully review and begin the discernment process. Investment of your time and skills to our Parish, community, and beyond is an amazing gift to God! We encourage you to complete the form by mid-February. Instructions are included. We appreciate your willingness to invest in our Cathedral Family!

Sincerely,

Stewardship Committee
Stewardship Ministry Opportunities Available at the Cathedral of the Assumption

**Time and Talent**

*Step One: Time—Please circle how much time you are willing to contribute to the ministries of the Cathedral.*
- One hour/week
- Few hours/week
- Few hours/month
- Few hours/year
- Project/year

*Step Two: Category—Please circle the area(s) you prefer using your time and talents.*
- Weekend Mass
- Weekday Mass
- Community Ministry
- Formation
- Parish Events
- Social Concerns

*Step Three: In columns two and three is a list of stewardship ministry opportunities available at the Cathedral with the approximate time commitment required. Please circle the ministries in which you would like to become involved and underline any ministries you would like to learn more about.*

*A complete description of Ministries is available: cathedraloftheassumption.org (stewardship tab/2014 Ministry Opportunities at the Cathedral)*

*Step Four: If you have any special talents or services which you would like to offer to the Cathedral, please list those here:*  

*Step Five: Would you like to talk with a member of the stewardship team about opportunities to serve?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No*

Questions: 502-582-2971

*A upon completion of this form, drop in the collection basket at Mass or deliver to 433 South 5th Street, 40202. A member of the ministry in which you have expressed interest will contact you.*

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**Parish Life**

- Parish Life Committee
- Docents for Cathedral & History Center
- Bereavement Teams - Prepare a dish/serve a meal
- Compassion
- Ministry to Sick & Homebound/Hospitalized
- Parish Newsletter
- Photography & Videography
- Parish Health Ministry
- Prayer Ministry
- Prayer Shawl Ministry

**Stewardship**

- Stewardship Committee
- Bishop Flaget Society
- Concierge Ministry

**Social Concerns**

- Daily Lunch Program
- Community Outreach
- Global Outreach (Haiti)
- Social Justice
- Habitat for Humanity
- Special Collections (for charities)
- Repair Affair

**Administration & Finance**

- Parish Office
- Parish Office Volunteer
- Parish Office Mailings and Projects
- Parish Council
- Building and Grounds Volunteer
- Church Cleaning
- Special Event Set-up/Clean-up
- Technology

**Formation**

- Children’s Liturgy of the Word
- Children’s Religious Education
- Youth Ministry
- RCIA
- Art & Soul (Spirituality through Art Class)
The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy (Latin: Jubilaeum Extraordinarium Misericordiae) is a Roman Catholic period of prayer held from the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 8 December 2015, to the Feast of Christ the King, 20 November 2016.

Like previous jubilees, it's seen by the Church as a period for remission of sins and universal pardon, in this occasion focusing particularly on God’s forgiveness and mercy. It is an extraordinary Jubilee because it had not been predetermined long before; usually ordinary jubilees take place every 25 years. The 2016 Jubilee was first announced by Pope Francis on March 13, 2015. It was declared by Pope Francis in his April 2015 papal bull of indiction, Misericordiae Vultus (Latin: "The Face of Mercy"). It is the 27th holy year in history, following the ordinary 2000 Jubilee during John Paul II papacy. The opening day was also the fiftieth anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council.

In prior months, it was stressed that the Pontiff wishes the Jubilee to be celebrated not only in Rome but all around the world; for the first time holy doors are going to be opened in single dioceses, either in the main cathedral or in local historical churches. The first holy door was open by Pope Francis in Bangui on November 29, 2015 during a tour in Africa.

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz officially opened the Holy Doors at the Cathedral of the Assumption in downtown Louisville, KY, December 13 during the 9:30 AM Mass. The doors, located on the north side of the sanctuary, lead to a series of seven stations, including the Cathedral’s Blessed Sacrament Chapel. The other stations include Scripture readings, prayers, and reminders about the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

Outlined are the steps to mercy at the Cathedral that we encourage you to walk and reflect upon during this coming year of mercy:

### The Jubilee Year of Mercy — A Pilgrim’s Steps to Mercy
#### Cathedral of the Assumption

#### STEP ONE:
Walk Through the Door of Mercy
[Please sign our Pilgrim Book]

#### STEP TWO:
Pray Our Holy Father’s Prayer Intentions of the Month

#### STEP THREE:
Pray the Message Inspired by Pope Francis’ Speech to Congress

#### STEP FOUR:
Enter the Blessed Sacrament Chapel and Spend Some Time Before Our Savior
(Copies of the Prodigal Son Gospel are available for meditative reading.)

#### STEP FIVE:
Note the Opportunities For Reconciliation
Posted on the Confessional Door
( Go to Confession)

#### STEP SIX:
Pray Pope Francis’ Prayer For The Jubilee of Mercy

#### STEP SEVEN:
“Walk the Walk”
Exit to the Benevolence Garden
(Consciously Live Out The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy)
**HOSPITALITY**

Do you find yourself holding the door open for complete strangers? Do you say Hi to random people you pass on the street? The Cathedral needs your outgoing personality to welcome everyone who attends Mass. Passing out bulletins is a bonus perk of this ministry.

Folks say you are the **RACHEL RAY OF CASSEROLE DISHES**, or perhaps you know the party store inside out. We are searching for all creative geniuses for the events team. Whatever your event skill, there's a need for you.

Looking to give back to the community? Have a burning desire to help the hungry? A couple of hours goes a long way in the Cathedral’s **Daily Lunch Program**.

How many **PHOTOS** are on your phone? Over 10,000? Clearly, you have an interest in capturing the moment. If you have taken a class in photography or photojournalism, consider bringing the Cathedral, its people and events to life.

Are you a continuous learner of the Catholic faith? Do you have a desire to **TEACH** our faith to others? Do you feel a calling to help our future leaders? A couple hours each Sunday as a religious educator can create a positive relationship with God that will last a lifetime.

Calling all computer wizards. The Cathedral is in need of technological geniuses or perhaps some savvy folks to update the website. If you are **UP WITH THE TECHNICAL TIMES**, join the **tech team**.

**HISTORY**

History your thing? Always wish you were one of those **MUSEUM** tour guides? Here’s your chance to share the rich history of the Cathedral and the Archdiocese with visitors and locals as a **docent**.

The **POWER OF PRAYER**. Is God calling you to expand your prayers for others? Many parishioners ask for prayers for many reasons: health, healing and so much more. Only a few minutes here and there as a member of the prayer ministry can bring the calming of the Holy Spirit to those in need.

Tired of seeing the same Parishioners do everything? The Stewardship team is your chance to **RECRUIT NEW TALENT**. Good communication skills and a passion for getting things done are a must.

Are you a **continuous learner of the Catholic faith? Do you have a desire to TEACH our faith to others? Do you feel a calling to help our future leaders? A couple hours each Sunday as a religious educator can create a positive relationship with God that will last a lifetime.**

Calling all computer wizards. The Cathedral is in need of technological geniuses or perhaps some savvy folks to update the website. If you are **UP WITH THE TECHNICAL TIMES**, join the **tech team**.

By: Margaret Brosko

Layout: Tristan Padua
THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY. The Cathedral provides many opportunities from working with our sister Parish in Haiti to local legislative efforts to partnerships with area agencies like St. John’s Center for Homeless Men. Make a difference today!

Skilled at carrying items — Cross, Holy Books, patens? Calling all men and women ALTAR SERVERS looking to sport a traditional white robe.

HELP WANTED

Is your creative side looking for an outlet? Perhaps you journal. Consider motivating and inspiring others through the power of the WRITTEN WORD. The Cathedral publishes six newsletters a year and is always looking for passionate content.

HELP WANTED

Did you love Drew Carey’s secretary, Mimi Bobeck? You too can stuff envelopes and bulletins and help with other big office projects. CLOWN MAKE-UP not required in the Parish Office!

The Cathedral Star
Staff Members
Margaret Brosko
Jack Lydon
Kay Madrick
Sharon Mattingly
Tristan Padua
Martha Villiger

Office Liaison
Angela Wiggins

Masthead Design
Teresa Heintzman