



MULTIPARISH COOPERATIVE SERVICE GROUP

They sowed fields and planted vineyards that yielded a fruitful harvest
Psalm 107

March 21, 2005

To: Bishop P.J. McGrath,
From: Joe Swyt, Br. Jim Sanders, Victor Espinoza
Re: Parish Funding Needs

Copy: Fr's Brocato, Brown, Juarez, Kidney, Samaniego, Sandersfeld
Msgr. Cilia, Bob Serventi

Three of our parishes and possibly six, wish to implement a formal Stewardship program over the next three years with the assistance of a professional, successful consulting team.

We are not satisfied with the current situation. We believe we need to offer our members an opportunity to change their lives through discipleship, not fundraising, not fee for service and not operating parishes on festivals and special requests.

Stewardship is a critical program in our parish list of needs. Without some substantial effort to raise the level of participation of our parishioners, we will be unable to meet the needs outlined in the pastoral plan. Parish costs are fast becoming fixed costs, with less each year for pastoral ministry. A coordinated program among our neighboring parishes will be helpful.

During our trip to the Wichita Stewardship Conference, eight members from MHT, SMG and SFOA attended. We met and interviewed a company with a track record of success using a proven model based on:

- Prayer,
- Hospitality,
- Education,
- Communications.

Br. Jim, Victor, Fr. Steve and I are comfortable with them and think that hiring them to coordinate their program within our parishes would be a positive step. We could be a pilot program for the diocese.

To fund our stewardship program we need \$25,000 per year for three years for each of the six parishes, a total of \$150,000 per year and \$450,000 for the three year effort. Financing it through the parishes is difficult. We prefer to have the funds come from our own ADA, Tax or Debt payments, not a grant from the diocese. This makes it a joint effort between diocese, deanery and parish.

Working together, this is the best investment we could all make. And we want to start in May. What we ask of you is to say to your CFO, "Bob, these parishes need this. How can we make this make this work!"