

**After the Heart of Jesus ...**

*"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father ..  
encourage your hearts and strengthen them in every good deed and word"*

*"May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God  
and to the endurance of Christ"  
- Thessalonians 2*



The Apostle Paul's life was not an easy one. As a missionary he traveled long distances, and traveling in the first century was challenging itself. He encountered many enemies of the Gospel along the way in pagans and Jews alike. He suffered physical illness and was beset by weakness. Yet he prevailed in bringing many people to come to know Christ.

Words of encouragement were frequently on Paul's lips and at the tip of his pen. Our lives, at times, are not easy. We deal with hardships and difficulties, sicknesses and evils. We, too, are called to work through these to carry out our mission in Christ. For us to prevail, we need the encouragement of others. We likewise need to lift others up with our support. Paul reminds us today that the source of all encouragement is Jesus himself. May He strengthen us for every good deed and word.

The overall response to Stewardship at St. Walter Parish has been fantastic! About 600 family and 200 youth and teen stewardship commitment forms have been returned so far. Many parishioners have expressed interest in new ways of serving and participating in parish life. The sharing of treasure in the initial week was phenomenal as well. The greater number of envelopes used and the increased average contribution made for a wonderful financial return to God for his blessings to us. **THANK YOU to everyone who has accepted the challenge to bring a sense of stewardship to our daily living as disciples of Jesus!**

Part of fidelity in stewardship is having an individual plan or commitment and then living according to the plan. **If you have not yet returned a completed commitment form, please do so in this Sunday's collection or send it to the Parish House by this Wednesday, Nov. 14.** Additional commitment forms for adults and young people should be located in the narthex. We will be sending follow up letters to parishioners who have not returned their commitment form by Wednesday.

Please mark the weekend of December 1 and 2 on your calendar as a special time to join us for some special events. In addition to being the beginning of Advent, the Fair Trade Bazaar will be held to support artisans and workers in developing countries. There will be a pancake breakfast for families on Sunday. Our friends from Abbington House will also be present with their craft items, and there will be a bake sale to support our outreach at Abbington. The weekend will conclude with the annual Spirit of Life Concert in Church on Sunday afternoon. If you are interested in helping with the Fair Trade Bazaar, please contact Karen Campe at the Parish Center.

We have completed the installation of new lighting along the circle drive. The newer technology provides better lighting with less energy consumption. Also the new poles are commercial grade used by municipalities rather than residential grade. One of the old poles had rusted so badly that it tipped over, and other poles were showing wear and tear at their base. We have also extended the lighting out towards the parking lot. Thank you to the parishioners who contributed to this project financially and in arranging for the work to be done.

Visitors to St. Walter often comment on the great care we take of our surroundings. The Garden Angels work throughout the spring, summer, and fall to add color and beauty to our grounds. They recently completed the Fall cleanup and added plantings that we will enjoy next spring and summer. Also, as part of his Eagle Scout project, **Anthony Svendsen** completed some landscaping by the McDonald Parish Center. He was assisted by several boy scouts, parents, and local nurseries. Thank you to Anthony and all who helped with that project.



We are setting the plans for our youth trip to the March for Life, in Washington, DC, in January. We will fly out to Washington on Monday, January 21, participate in the Mass for Life at the National Shrine, the Catholic Youth Rally at the Verizon Center and attend the March for Life on Tuesday, January 22, and return on Wednesday, January 23. Because of the support of generous donors, the cost of the trip is only \$150.00, including the air fare and two nights lodging. Interested teens and parent chaperones, please contact me as soon as possible.

May we encourage one another to live ...

After the Heart of Jesus!  
**Father John**