

ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH

CLEVELAND, OHIO

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 The True Meaning of the Word "Stewardship"
- 3 The Love for God and One Another
- 4 Andrew Arko *Making a Difference*
- 6 Results of the 2014 Stewardship Renewal
- 7 *An Opportunity to Start the Day Off Right* Program Serves Breakfast and Lunch to Students

SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

CHOOSES ST. IGNATIUS AS *"Spiritual Home"*

They say there's nothing like tough times to show you who your real friends are. For St. Ignatius Parish, there has been no better friend than the St. Ignatius School Alumni Association. With a membership in the thousands, the association rallied to raise funds to help the parish stay open in 2009 and continues to support it with many annual events.

But beyond raising money, what is it that connects the members of the association and keeps them coming back year after year to help out? As association Co-Chairs Lynna Metrisin and Larry Straka explain, it all comes back to keeping St. Ignatius Parish as a spiritual home.

"The people have such a commitment to the community that we grew up in," Lynna says. "We still feel a connection to that neighborhood, that community, and we know how important both the parish and the



Alumni Association Co-Chair Lynna Metrisin (center) meets with Paul and Ursula Juricsin, honorees at the Sixth Annual Founder's Day Gala, held in March.

school are to that neighborhood. A number of us who don't live in the area anymore have chosen the parish to be our spiritual home. All of us have fond memories of being in that school, and so it's something that we feel very strongly about."

"Our alumni are scattered throughout the country and a lot of them still support us," Larry explains, saying even those who live states away will still buy raffle tickets and make contributions. "We have a lot to be grateful for."

continued on back cover

The True Meaning of the Word

“STEWARDSHIP”

There is a stigma attached to the word “stewardship” in some Catholic parishes, likely because many pastors and parish leaders mistakenly equate stewardship to money. But a true steward knows that couldn’t be further from the truth.

Stewardship is a biblical principle that actually has nothing to do with money. As a matter of fact, 19 of the main parables of Christ relate directly to stewardship. And, in those parables when Christ speaks of stewardship, He never mentions raising money. Surprised?

Stewardship simply means being grateful for all of God’s blessings. Everything we have – each breath we take on earth, the tremendous talents we possess, and our ability to earn income to sustain ourselves – all stem from God. We come into the world with nothing and we leave with nothing.

Recognizing this and being grateful for our bountiful blessings is the first step of stewardship. Once these realizations fall into place, we are then eager to find a way to respond to God’s generosity and to embark upon a stewardship way of life.

And stewardship is just that, a way of life. It is not like a TV show to

which you can tune in whenever the mood strikes, and shut off when you are no longer interested. It is truly a way of living.

Yet, the mere word “stewardship” has gotten a bad rap over the years – and not just by us lay people.

According to the late stewardship pioneer Msgr. Thomas McGread, when a pastor speaks about money during his homily, 75 percent of the congregation immediately stops listening. However, did you know that tithing is mentioned in the Old Testament 39 times, and in the New Testament 11 times? Tithing is biblically based, and it simply means to give a portion of our gifts back to God.

In 1992, when the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops were forming the Pastoral Letter on Stewardship, they originally didn’t want to title it *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*.

“Instead, they wanted to just call it *A Disciple’s Response*, with the reason being that they felt stewardship meant money,” said Msgr. McGread before his passing in April 2013. “I convinced them at the time that ‘stewardship’ is a biblical term and it is our job to

explain what a steward is. Before the Pastoral Letter, most of us didn’t understand the spiritual dimension of stewardship.”

So, how do we go about sharing the spiritual dimensions of stewardship with fellow parishioners and lay leaders?

First of all, Msgr. McGread cited the importance of being hospitable and discovering the needs of parishioners. He felt that when parishioners were welcomed and their needs were met, they were fulfilled and felt a sense of belonging to their parish. This, in turn, creates ownership. Once parishioners felt like they were part of the parish, they wanted to respond by volunteering, and sharing their time, talent and treasure in order to help make it the best parish community possible.

And, as parishioners support their parish with all of their resources out of gratitude, the entire parish blossoms. Prayers increase, ministries grow, and yes, the offertory increases. These blessings are natural outcomes of living a stewardship way of life, and they are why it is important that we should always remember the true meaning of the word “stewardship.”



A Letter From Our Pastor

The Love for *God* and One Another

Dear Parishioners,

If we listen closely to the Mass readings throughout this month of May, we will recognize a common theme – love. Of course, every month and every day – and every minute, for that matter – is a time to show our love for one another. St. John begins many of the passages of his letters with the word “Beloved.”

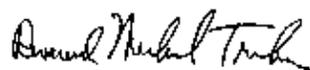
We will hear in one of the readings, “Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God.” If we would simply follow that one commandment to “Love one another,” we will carry out the stewardship of all of our gifts. Living as a steward is indeed living a life of love – for God, for the Church, for everyone in need, for our families, and for everyone with whom we come in contact.

Our Holy Father Pope Francis has spoken about this often during his papacy. At his very first Mass as pope, he said in his homily, “Everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it. Be protectors of God’s gifts.” There are two important parts to this statement: first, we need to recognize that all is a gift from God, everything we have and everything we are; second, we have a responsibility to use those gifts wisely in service to others.

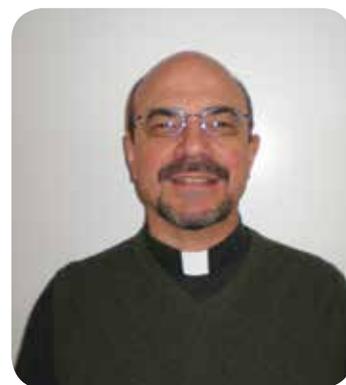
Pope Francis has also emphasized this stewardship of service throughout his papacy. Speaking to young people in Brazil, he said, “Let us protect with love all that God has given us.” Not only does he point out how we are gifted, but he recognizes that our motivation for using and sharing those gifts should be love. Recently, at an audience with young people, he was even more specific: “Have you thought of how you can put your talents at the service of others?” he asked. “Do not bury your talents! Set your stakes on great ideals, the ideals that enlarge the heart, the ideals of service that make your talents fruitful.”

We all have been called to love – called by our Lord and Savior, by our saints, by our Pope, and by our spiritual leaders. Nevertheless, we also understand that loving in this way and being good stewards is never easy. Let us vow to work together to love and to carry out our lives in ways so many have challenged us to do.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Fr. Michael Troha



*We all have
been called to
love & called
by our Lord
and Savior,
by our saints,
by our Pope,
and by our
spiritual
leaders.*

ANDREW ARKO = Making



Andrew Arko with his parents, Dennis and Anne Marie, before leaving for a scouting trip to New Mexico



Andrew Arko priming a shotgun shell at the range in New Mexico

As we strive to find ways to live out our Catholic faith in our day-to-day lives, it is easy to feel overwhelmed and to ask ourselves, “Can one person truly make a difference?” It’s a sobering question, but to find the answer look no further than Andrew Arko who, through his involvement with the Boy Scouts of America, demonstrates the power of one.

As far as teens go, Andrew says he’s just a regular guy. He is a senior at St. Ignatius of Loyola. He likes to fish and play basketball. He enjoys snacking on Doritos, his favorite movie is *The Dark Knight*, he likes J.R.R. Tolkien’s novel about Middle Earth, *Silmarillion*, and he admits to being a fan of the hit television show, *The Walking Dead*. And like many guys across America, when he was in the first grade, he became a Tiger Cub, the entry level for the Boy Scouts. And from that very first meeting, Andrew was hooked.

“Some of my best memories are from when I was a Tiger Cub,” Andrew says. “At one point, my two brothers and I were in it together, and every year the highlight would be the Pinewood Derby. To prepare, we would dig through our bins of matchbox cars to find ones we liked. Then we would each draw a design on graph paper and our dad would then take us to the workshop at the school to build, tweak, paint – and re-paint! – our pinewood cars until we got them just right.”

Through the years Andrew, a proud member of Troop 159 based at St. Raphael’s in Bay Village, progressed through the Scouts – earning merit badges, participating in campouts, and practicing leadership skills – while learning the importance of citizenship and community. And today this young man, who considers himself just a regular guy, is trying to become part of the seven percent of Scouts nationwide who have earned

“OVER THE YEARS I’VE LEARNED A LOT ABOUT MYSELF. I’VE LEARNED THAT I LIKE TO LEAD BY EXAMPLE, THAT I CAN ALWAYS DO MORE THAN I THINK I CAN, AND THAT I HAVE A PASSION FOR THE OUTDOORS.” – ANDREW ARKO

g a Difference

the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest advancement rank in Boy Scouts.

“I watched my older brother, Ethan, become an Eagle Scout, and that really motivated me,” Andrew says. “So I always knew it was something that I would do.”

To achieve the rank, Scouts must earn 21 merit badges covering topics such as First Aid, Environmental Science and Personal Management – Andrew is still working on two, Citizenship in the Community and Citizenship in the World – serve six months of a leadership position within a troop, take part in a Scoutmaster Conference, and successfully complete an Eagle Scout Board of Review. They are also required to plan and develop a service project for any religious organization, school or community, and for inspiration Andrew met with Fr. Troha to see if there was anything that he could do for the parish.

“Father mentioned that he has always wanted to have a vegetable garden,” Andrew says. “So he suggested that for my service project I could clear out the parish house courtyard area, build a raised garden bed, and get it ready for planting. I thought it was a great idea and knew it was something I could do.”

If you’ve seen the area in question, then you realize what a job this was. Andrew, who recruited friends and fellow troop members to help, spent three days pulling down vines covering the brick wall, clearing out overgrown brush, grinding and removing a tree stump, building a raised garden bed (something that Andrew “Googled” and researched online), and prepping the area with mulch and rich soil so that Father and the Garden Club can plant vegetables. To fund the project, Andrew wrote a letter to Home Depot explaining his project and asked for donated materials and/or a discount for building supplies.



On the way up to the mountain peak in New Mexico

Amazingly, while much of scouting is about the physical – backpacking, hiking, building, surviving – there is also a spiritual component. Since most of the members in his troop are Catholic, Andrew says that participating in Scouts has enabled him to learn about himself and to be able to share his faith with others. In fact, Andrew recently participated in a religious camping retreat where he gave a talk on discipleship.

“Over the years I’ve learned a lot about myself,” Andrew says. “I’ve learned that I like to lead by example, that I can always do more than I think I can, and that I have a passion for the outdoors – which is why I plan to attend West Virginia University and double major in Environmental Protection and Geoscience. In school, we are taught to find God in all things, and through my involvement in Scouts, I have definitely been able to do that.”

Finally, being a young person today is not easy, and the world offers so many distractions. But Pope Francis has repeatedly recognized the special energies, opportunities and responsibilities that our Catholic young men and women offer the world, believing wholeheartedly that they are the face of the future.

In the end, Andrew shows us that one person can indeed make difference!

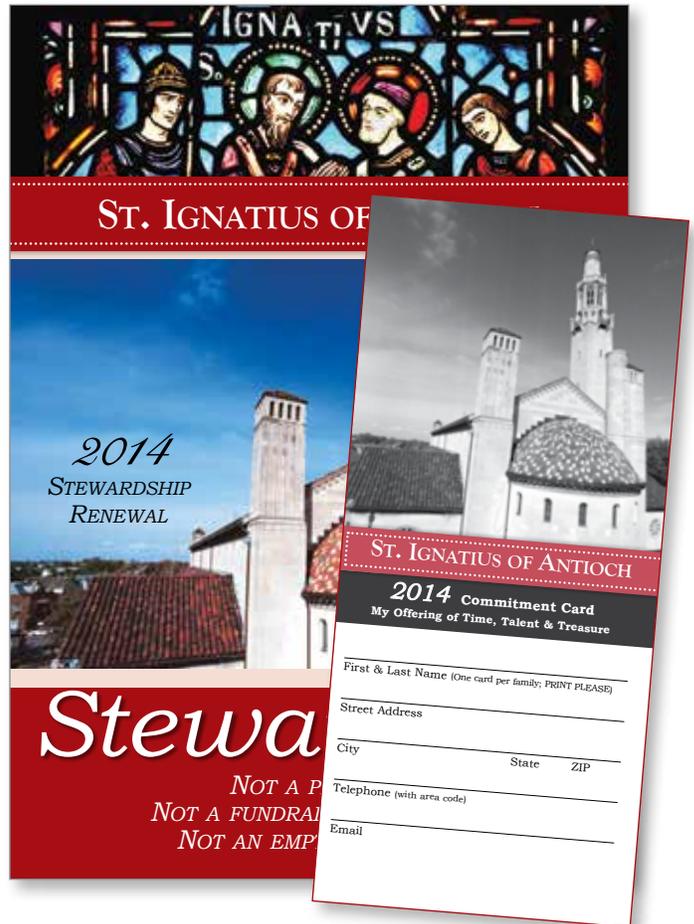
Results of the 2014 Stewardship Renewal

Our parish leadership at St. Ignatius of Antioch recently conducted the 2014 Stewardship Renewal. The results certainly demonstrate that commitment to prayer, ministry and the Catholic faith are of continually increasing importance to our parish community.

As of press time of this newsletter, 17 percent of active households took part in the Stewardship Renewal by filling out and returning a commitment card.

Several of the notable results from the 2014 Stewardship Renewal include the following:

- A total of 383 Prayer Commitments – or commitments to Stewardship of Time – was made by 126 households who returned commitment cards.
- The top five “Time” commitments were:
 - “Attend Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days,” 114 commitments
 - “Spend 15 minutes a day in personal prayer,” 91 commitments
 - “Pray the Rosary at least weekly,” 42 commitments
 - “Pray together with my loved ones,” 42 commitments
 - “Read the Bible for at least one hour a week,” 35 commitments
- A total of 434 Ministry Commitments – or commitments to Stewardship of Talent – was made during the Stewardship Renewal, with 222 of these being new “interested in joining” commitments and 212 being re-commitments. There were 113 commitment cards with talent commitments.
- The top five “Talent” commitments were:
 - Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, 37 commitments
 - Food Pantry Volunteer, 35 commitments
 - Garden Club, 25 commitments
 - Share-A-Meal Volunteer, 24 commitments
 - Annual Gala, 21 commitments



- A total of 117 households made “Stewardship of Treasure” commitments. The average annual pledge was \$1,234.
- There were 83 weekly offertory pledges.
- There were 33 monthly offertory pledges.

Indeed, these statistics point to an increasingly active commitment to stewardship here within our St. Ignatius of Antioch parish community. And while the spiritual benefits of stewardship can never be quantified, this annual commitment on behalf of our parishioners helps to ensure that St. Ignatius of Antioch remains a vital and faith-filled parish community. We thank all who participate in the life of St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish!

An Opportunity to Start the Day Off Right

Program Serves Breakfast and Lunch to Students

Children need to eat – it’s such a simple and obvious fact that it generally goes without saying. But with the number of families who aren’t financially able to provide enough food for their children, perhaps it needs to be discussed more often.

To ensure that every student is getting the food they need every day of the school year, St. Ignatius of Antioch School provides them with breakfast and lunch through the Diocese of Cleveland’s School Lunch program.

“A lot of our students are lower income kids in the city,” says Maria Scalf, Cafeteria Manager for St. Ignatius of Antioch School. “Some don’t get a chance to eat outside of school, so this could be their only meal during the day. I try to make sure I’m always here and they always have enough to eat. And it’s healthier than when I started a few years ago. It’s nice to see the kids choose something that they like – there’s four options they get to choose from, and they get to choose three out of those four, so they get a decent meal.”

Maria and her three fellow cafeteria staff members work throughout the school year to ensure that the students have breakfast before class and a nutritious lunch in the middle of the day. St. Ignatius of Antioch school parents register for the program through the Diocese of Cleveland, and the amount they pay depends on their income. Higher income families are required to pay for the meals, while families with lower incomes receive the meals for free or at reduced prices. The program also saves time for families as they get ready for school and work in the mornings.

“There’s 50 million things you have to worry about throughout the day, this is one less thing you have to worry about,” Maria says. “You just have to drop your kids off and worry about you getting to work. We take care of the rest.”

Instead of skipping breakfast to get to school on time, the students are able to eat the most important meal of the day before going to class.

“When they come in for breakfast, they’re eating, instead of a kid coming in and being hungry, where they’re not going to be ready for class,” Maria says. “They’ve already started a half hour of their day and are ready for school because they’ve eaten. They’re here, they’ve eaten and they’re ready to go.”

Maria has been working with this program for eight years, and serving breakfast and lunch to the students has blessed her own life.

“I love these little kids,” she says. “Some of them come in with problems and I love listening to them. Some kids just need someone to talk to. I always tell them to come to me if they have any problems. It’s nice to see them come in and feel better by coming in and talking to me for a few minutes.”

For more information about the School Lunch program, please call the St. Ignatius of Antioch School office at 216-671-0535.

“Some don’t get a chance to eat outside of school, so this could be their only meal during the day. I try to make sure I’m always here and they always have enough to eat. And it’s healthier than when I started a few years ago. It’s nice to see the kids choose something that they like – there’s four options they get to choose from, and they get to choose three out of those four, so they get a decent meal.”

– Maria Scalf, Cafeteria Manager for St. Ignatius of Antioch Elementary School



(From left) Helwa Hammad, Ann Latessa, Maria Scalf, and Rosie DeJesus work in the cafeteria to prepare lunch for the students.

ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH

10205 Lorain Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44111
216-251-0300

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Cleveland OH
Permit #749

Check out our new website:
sioa.weconnect.com

Change Service Requested

Mass Schedule

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Alumni Association *continued from front cover*

As popular association events draw closer in the coming months, Larry says he'd like to invite alumni who have contributed to visit the church so that they can see recent changes for themselves.

"There have been a lot of improvements in the last few years that we've accomplished as a result of their support," he says.

"My hope is to involve more alumni with some of the events that we do throughout the year," Lynna adds. "I'm hoping to spread the word about things like Market Day as a way of getting people who may not be in the parish to support the parish."

Lynna says the success of the association hinges upon the tireless work of Pastoral Associate S. Dianne

Piunno and the friendships that have developed as a result of it.

"S. Dianne's leadership has been and continues to be outstanding," Lynna says. "Working with people like Larry and the connections we make are what make it what it is. Some of my best friends now are people I've met in the church and in the Alumni Association."

Both Co-Chairs attest that keeping the association going is key to continuing to build upon what the church has become in recent years.

"It's the only way that a parish can survive anymore," Larry says. "If the people don't get involved, what's the point of continuing? No matter how beautiful a building is, you have to keep it going."

UPCOMING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EVENTS

June 28 – Phnom Penh Cambodian and Vietnamese restaurant will donate one day's sales to the church and school.

July 29 – St. Ignatius of Antioch Annual Golf Classic

September 13 – Clambake

October 17 – Boulevard Bash

More information to follow in the bulletin or on the parish Facebook page.

"While the school population may be changing, knowing we have the opportunity to provide quality Catholic education to area children is a very important thing," Lynna says.

Parishioners who wish to get involved with the Alumni Association should contact the Parish House at 216-251-0300.