



Reflection on My Stewardship

Hello, my name is Louise Necklen. I have been a member of St. Henry Parish for 5 years. I have been asked to tell you about my experiences regarding stewardship among us in our parish.

Saint Henry Parish first became familiar to me during mid-1990 as we would be driving by on the freeway. At that time St. Benedict's retirement home had just been built. My remark to my husband as we passed was, "that's where I want to live when I get old and crotchety." We were living the good life being retired and enjoying our beautiful church community in Paynesville.

In 2010, my husband, Bill, was diagnosed with stomach cancer. From that point on, we could only focus on his treatment followed by the management of his illness. In August, 2011, good news came that he was cancer-free. By this time we decided to sell our home and move closer to the cities to be near our children and their families. I had already put our name on the wait list at Saint Benedict's and they had a vacancy. We moved to St. Benedict's on September 15, 2011.

The first weekend in Monticello, Bill ended up in the hospital only to find out that cancer had returned very aggressively. He came home on hospice and passed away 2 weeks later. I had not as yet registered with the parish, but during the first week of hospice, I called Fr. Tony and during that time he made many visits to see Bill. I will always be grateful for that time and what a comfort for us to be so close to church.

Our sons visited with Fr. Tony and between them they made the funeral arrangements. We expected approximately 80 people to attend the funeral which turned out to be 150. These lovely people in the parish came and offered their friendship and followed up by helping me fit into the church family. During the first of couple months here, I was asked and joined the adult choir followed by CCW – Adoration & Adoration Committee – nursery helper – mission sewing group – church cleaning – GRFP (Great River Family Promise) program, etc.

In this parish, there are so many ways to get involved. It just takes someone to welcome a new face in the crowd. God has given everyone talents that are unique to them and all are needed to build Christ's church. That is what we are here for!

I am so grateful to all who made me feel welcome. During the first few weeks, when Mass was ended the person ahead of me would ask if I were new to the parish. I am pleased now to be that person in front of someone and pass on that friendly greeting to them.

No matter what our state in life, we need this support. If we don't give it to one another, there are many elements in today's society that can lure the person behind you away from God and his saving grace.

Of all activities impressing me the most is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. With the exception of participation at Holy Mass, this is the foundation of all other actions.

THANK YOU.

And remember to greet the person'(s) behind you.