

Message From Fr. Tom . . .

PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT
Appeal Launch Weekend
February 3-4, 2018

It goes without saying how much our parish is a caring, responsive, generous, giving community. What you do financially and otherwise for the sake of St. Gregory the Great Parish is tremendous and for that, I thank you. However, there is another way you can help, another way to assist our brothers and sisters in faith living beyond our parish community.

DECIDE TO LEAD is the theme of this year's Catholic Stewardship Appeal that serves more than 500,000 Catholics across the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

Each of us is a leader in our own right. God gave us a set of gifts, not to suppress or remain idle, but be used and extended to help enrich the lives of our brothers and sisters in faith to make for a better parish, a better archdiocese, a better world. Hebrews 13:7 tells us, "*Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.*" Now it is time to put *our* faith into action!

The Appeal is a vehicle for members of our parish community, and the faith community-at-large, to come together in gratitude to share our blessings with others. No doubt each one of us has had occasions when we felt blessed, sensed the grace of God, or the hand of the Holy Spirit.

The funds raised by this Appeal help to serve families in a variety of ways, strengthen parishes, support 107 Catholic Schools including our Parish School, and form 17 Permanent Deacons, including parishioner Tim Waldoch. This Appeal also provides services for clergy and senior priests, and supports 57 seminarians at St Francis Seminary, so they can serve in the priesthood. These are just some of the ways your Appeal gifts can enhance Catholic life throughout Southeastern Wisconsin.

This week every registered household of St. Greg's will receive an invitation from the Archbishop to contribute to this year's Catholic Stewardship Appeal. I encourage you to read all the information enclosed in it. Also, a pledge card will be included which allows for a one time donation, or a donation that can be given in different payments throughout the year.

Thank you to those of you who have been faithful contributors to the Appeal in the past. I hope you will consider renewing your support this year and even consider a small increase if the Spirit moves you and your finances allow. And, for those of you who have not made a gift before, may I ask that you consider doing so this year? We want and need your participation in the Appeal if we're to be successful. Please consider helping us reach our parish goal of \$35,000. If you would like to view the video presentation about the Appeal, it is available on the home page of our parish website or the website of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

Thank you in advance for your generosity. May God bless you all!