



## St. Cecilia Roman Catholic Church

St. Cecilia's Church  
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## First Stewardship Message - September 9, 2006

Each of us here today, and all the members of our families at St. Cecilia's, no matter what it is each of us may do for a living, or where we may go to school, are all impacted with the constant need to provide for ourselves and for one another in order to insure that we have adequate resources to insure our day to day existence. Sometimes, it takes more effort and much more attention than we would like, it would seem, just to stay ahead of expenses.

As one Economist put it quite bluntly, "If your outgo exceeds your income, your upkeep will be your downfall!"

Well, St. Cecilia Parish, just like each of us and each of our families, must take the needed steps in order to be certain that it will not fall into that position which that Economist stated.

For this reason, we are launching a "Stewardship of Treasure Program."

What we will all be asked to do as a part of this program, is to give prayerful consideration to our current giving and seriously reflect on increasing that amount.

Our first reaction when hearing about this program might likely be – "Wait a minute – I have all these other things that need to be addressed – mortgage payments, home equity loan payments, car payments, tuition bills, insurance premiums, gas for the

car, car maintenance, the cost of heating with Fall and Winter coming on....."

There's no question that all of these are very real concerns and they must be met and dealt with realistically. **BUT** – the Church – St. Cecilia's, is our home also – for all of us – and its needs are our needs and these needs do not grow any less, day by day.

In thinking all of this through, regarding any monetary sacrifice we are called upon to make, the words and admonition of my late Mother came immediately to mind – "You are NEVER out anything that you give to the Church." The truth of those words have come back to me countless times over the many years.

At the same time, I can still hear the words of my late Father, who like my Mother, lived through the great Depression, - "For heaven's sake, man, keep a cushion!" I can tell you, that St. Cecilia's "cushion," which once had a somewhat comfortable padding, is virtually flat.

What we are being asked to do today is to begin looking at our own circumstances, take stock of what we are presently giving in the way of treasure to St. Cecilia's, and consider increasing that amount.

We are not being asked to make any commitments today, nor for the next couple weekends.

This "Stewardship of Treasure Program" which is being conducted at St. Cecilia's, will be supported by a series of mailings.

- This weekend, we are announcing our appeal.
- Next weekend, we shall review the "increase table" and also review some questions and answers in detail
- The following weekend, the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend, will be our "Commitment Weekend." At that time, we shall pass out intention cards, right here in Church – but not today.

As was said earlier, what we are all being asked to do – all of us- is to give prayerful consideration to our current giving – what we are giving now – and reflect on increasing that amount. What we are striving for at St. Cecilia's is equal sacrifice **not** equal giving.

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