



*Founded in faith, rooted in love  
AND CALLED TO SERVE.*

# Presentation Press

Our Lady of the Presentation Church

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## Financial Stewardship Offers Blessings and Challenges

by Jane Krawczyk, Director of Stewardship

I read a story recently about a family who encountered many challenges in their life when their son was severely burned in an accident. Having received many blessings and kindnesses through the grace of God, friends and even strangers during this time, this family began to seriously discern how they were sharing their blessings with others.

As a result of this experience, the family began to give 2% of their financial resources to their faith community and became more actively involved. They were amazed at how these small changes brought about big changes in their life. They began to trust more deeply in the presence of God and the goodness of others. They experienced the joy and peace that comes from sharing their gifts with others.

Eventually they increased their financial contributions and gave 5% to their parish, and together as a family, decided which charities would receive an additional 5% of their financial treasure. The accident in which their son was severely burned became life changing for them in ways they could not have imagined.

Over the past year, we have experienced many blessings within our faith community. Many parishioners came forward in support of our capital campaign by serving on committees and through financial pledges of \$1,890,000. In the fall, the excitement of the Kohl's Cares for Kids contest resulted in our parish school receiving a gift of \$500,000 due to the efforts of some very dedicated individuals along with parish and community wide support.

Our debt continues to decline and will fall below \$600,000 this month. We continue to work toward the renovation of our Worship Space and are preparing for the future needs of our faith community through Master Planning.



The ongoing challenge we face as a parish is related to our operating budget. At this time we are currently operating \$200,000 behind budget. Although we have seen some increase in expenses this year, financial contributions are not what was projected.

Over the course of our lifetime we will experience both blessings and challenges. It takes a tremendous amount of trust to share your financial resources. Sometimes a tragedy helps us to reevaluate our lives, as with the family whose son was severely burned. God calls each of us to prayerful discernment of the sharing of our gifts and financial support of our parish.

How are you sharing your gifts with our faith community? With a sense of gratitude for your blessings, do you prayerfully place a financial gift in the collection basket each week in support of our parish? What challenges do you face that might prevent you from doing so? Our response to God's call to stewardship reflects our gratitude to God, the source of all blessings and our strength in the midst of life's challenges.

*As we reflect on our lives as Christian stewards, we discover that our happiness happens in proportion to our concern for others.*

*- Colleen Smith, Catholic Stewardship:  
Sharing God's Gifts*

**Save The Date For Fiesta!**

**Saturday, February 19**

**6:30 to 9:00 pm in the Auditorium**



The Hispanic Ministry invites you to come join us for homemade food prepared by parishioners. Tickets available in advance and at the door. Come sample the variety of foods that will be available.

Proceeds will benefit our parish community needs.

## Living a Life of Stewardship As a Family

Chip and Sharon Cornell joined Our Lady of the Presentation Parish in 2002 when their triplet daughters began kindergarten. Prior to joining Presentation, the Cornell family were members of St. Mark's Parish in Independence for many years. Both are also lifelong residents of the Kansas City area.

The Cornell family is involved in many ministries at Presentation. Chip serves as chairman of the Facilities Committee which includes the church and school facilities. Chip and fellow committee members are hard at work with the worship space renovation and overall parish master planning process. Sharon is involved in the liturgical ministries as a Eucharistic Minister at the 4:30 p.m. Mass. She also volunteers as a Girl Scout leader, school library volunteer and room parent. She has been involved in many other volunteer efforts for the past seven years that the girls have attended OLP school. Their daughters Mary, Charlie and Lily, who are in the sixth grade, also share their gifts in the parish as altar servers at the 4:30 p.m. Mass on weekends and at school Masses. The entire family gets involved in many service and volunteer opportunities throughout the church and school. The girls especially take pride in earning their Presidential Service Award each year.

The Cornells believe that sharing their gifts in various church and school ministries has provided much fulfillment to their spiritual lives.

"We share a strong sense of commitment to our church, as an extension of family," says Sharon. "In the years we have been parishioners and a school family of Our Lady of the Presentation, we have met



many wonderful people. All of those people have become part of our lives, and have supported the faith and stewardship we strive to teach our children."

The Cornells watch in amazement as their children grow in their faith and learn the importance of service to others within such a supportive community.

† Parishioners since 2002

† Parents of three children

† Ministries

Facilities Committee Chair

Eucharistic Minister

Altar Server

Girl Scout Leader

School Library Volunteer

Room Parent

## BeFriender Ministry: A “Godsend” for Givers and Receivers

by Marilyn Schmidt, Director of Pastoral Care

The BeFriender Ministry Program at Presentation Parish provides a great opportunity for personal growth for those who befriend others as well as those who receive care. We all experience times when life is difficult such as the death or serious illness of a loved one, job loss, divorce, relationship issues, health concerns, or questioning our faith. During these trying times, BeFriender Ministers are available to walk with us on our life journey, to be confidential, compassionate listeners. BeFriender ministers do not give advice. They assist those in need to find their own inner wisdom to be at peace with life on life’s terms.

Eight new BeFriender Ministers have recently been trained and commissioned to serve. There are now 23 active BeFriender Ministers, including the leadership team. Here are some comments I have received from those who befriend others:

*I was told that this ministry would be personally rewarding by each person involved with it. I heard the words, but I did not fully understand until I experienced it. I am very humbled and the very core of my soul has been touched.*

*I am a happier person because of the wonderful spiritual experience of BeFriender Ministry. The trust and responsibility of truly listening to someone is awe inspiring.*

*Offering myself as a confidential, caring, listening presence is a source of visible connection between the individual and our Lord.*

*I have had the privilege of being there to listen to individuals who are experiencing difficulties and need to talk to someone in a private, confidential*

*setting.*

*As a BeFriender Minister, my main joy is my spiritual growth. I want to answer our Lord when He calls me to “be God with skin” and mirror the faith and love of our Lord.*

*This is a wonderful, Spirit-filled ministry demanding one to slow down and listen to God’s world, His people and His Word!*

Here are some comments from those who have been befriended:

*This was such a comforting experience. It was so easy to share my life with her. I felt like somebody cares about me. This program is wonderful!*

*What an awesome lady! She was a great listener, very intent, not at all intimidating. I felt so comfortable and relaxed.*

*It was so good to be able to share what was heavy on my heart. I felt very safe.*

*Being befriended made me feel confident in myself. I realized that I was not crazy. I felt a sense of security and confidence knowing that I am a valuable person.*

*My BeFriender is fabulous! She gave me so much hope during a difficult time. It was very helpful. I never felt pressured to share.*

*My BeFriender is a “Godsend.” It is comforting to have some who really understands what I am going through.*

If you are struggling with any issues in your life, contact me in the Pastoral Care Office, 251-1102, and I will assign a BeFriender Minister to meet with you. Confidentiality is honored.



### Spring Grief Support Groups

Presentation Parish offers Mutual-Help Grief Support groups for adults who are grieving the death of a loved one. The groups meet for six weeks with a different theme presented each week.

This is not an ongoing support group and participants are asked to commit to the entire six weeks. Pre-registration is required by calling 251-1102. The Spring 2011 session dates are Thursday mornings: 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. or evenings: 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., March 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7 and 14. The groups meet in the Log House.

Presentation Parish Music Ministry will give a concert at Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Redemptorist) Parish, 3333 Broadway in Kansas City, Sunday, March 13 at 2:00 p.m. The concert will feature the Presentation Choir, Choristers and Handbells. Musical works of



da Palestrina, Biebl, Fetke, Chesnokov, Mozart, Kaiser, Rutter, and others will be presented. The concert is a benefit for Redemptorist to purchase a new pipe organ.



**Our Lady of the  
Presentation Church**  
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**Phone: 816-251-1100**

**Fax: 816-251-1199**

**www.presentation-parish.org**

***Vision Statement***

Our Lady of the Presentation is a vibrant, Eucharist-centered community offering all Catholics participation in sacraments, social action and Christian education.

***Mission Statement***

To share our gifts by providing opportunities for spiritual growth in worship, service, education and community activities, is our mission.

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**2<sup>nd</sup> annual  
Chocolate Festival**

**Saturday, Feb. 12th  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**Etue Room**

**Shop for your Valentine!**

Chocolate cheesecakes, truffles, brownies, candies, scones, and much more! Purchase valentine gift baskets, children's activity table and a "sample" table!

*Sponsored by St. Cecilia's Guild  
For the benefit of Our Lady of Presentation's  
Music Ministry*



**Donations of your favorite Chocolate goodies and recipes will be accepted on Friday, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m.-8 p.m.**

Contact Cheryl Kiesov, 554-1788 or by e-mail:  
flyingflo@hughes.net



**PRESENTATION'S**

**FAMILY GAME NIGHT!**

**Friday, February 25**  
**6:30 to 8:30 pm in the Auditorium**

6:30: *Socializing & Snacks*  
7:00: *Games begin*  
8:00: *Tally scores, announce winners, prize drawings, more socializing!*



- Each family will participate as a team to complete various tasks in under one minute
- Prizes will be awarded
- Bring a snack to share

**Free tickets available after Masses Feb. 12-13 & at Divine Donuts Feb 19-20.**

**Bring your ticket for entry into the door prize drawing!**

*Join us for some indoor winter fun!*


