

**PASTOR'S FIRST LETTER TO ALL PARISHIONERS (TIME AND TALENT) AND  
INTRODUCTION TO 2008 STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL**

**HAND-SIGNED BY PASTOR**

Mr and Mrs Fred Parishioner  
487 Pitt Street  
Cumming, GA 30742

**NEW!**

Dear Fred and Betty,

Spiritual growth and renewal are a continuing part of the life of any Christian. They are also basic parts of our parish life.

An important part of this spiritual growth is embodied in the principle of stewardship. Through stewardship, we thank God for all His blessings by returning to Him a portion of the time, service and the financial resources He has given to us.

During the next few weeks, you will be hearing more about stewardship and what it means in terms of your personal spiritual lives. You will be asked to reflect on the three areas of stewardship and how they are lived out in your life. Among the important questions are:

**Time.** How much time do you set aside each week in prayer and study of scripture? Do you spend time in front of the Blessed Sacrament?

**Service.** How you are using your talents for the betterment of our parish family and for the community as a whole?

**Sharing.** What percentage of your yearly income do you presently give to support your church and community activities?

During the next several weeks, I suggest that you and members of your family spend time in prayerful thought about stewardship and your relationship with the Lord.

Yours in Christ,

**PASTOR'S FIRST LETTER TO ALL PARISHIONERS (TIME AND TALENT) AND  
INTRODUCTION TO 2008 STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL**

**HAND-SIGNED BY PASTOR**

Dear (use the parishioner(s)' first name),

As a parish, we are about to begin the annual stewardship process of thinking about how each of us is called to bring Christ to others.

God continues to entrust us with the work of Christ as together we strive to build God's kingdom. God continues to gift us with the responsibility of sharing our resources and ourselves with our families, in the workplace, at the parish and in larger community. Since we are a stewardship parish, we freely embrace the spiritual principles of stewardship that center around our belief in God as the Giver of all good gifts. As good stewards, we recognize these gifts, develop them, and use and share them in justice with others. One significant way to share our gifts and put our faith into action is through our stewardship of Time and Talent.

During the next few days, when you pray, ask our God to help you recognize your giftedness. Start to evaluate how you use your gifts of time and talent in all areas of your life.

Next weekend at all our Masses, we will have our Annual Time and Talent Ministry Fair where we, as a parish community, celebrate God's generosity in our lives. It is a wonderful opportunity to rejoice and reflect on how each of us is using God's gifts in service to others.

We pray that our God continues to bless and gift you and your family as you move from decision to action, to become good stewards who set out to bring Jesus to others. To become His Disciples who are called to share.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor

**PASTOR'S FIRST LETTER TO ALL PARISHIONERS (TIME AND TALENT) AND  
INTRODUCTION TO 2008 STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL**

**HAND-SIGNED BY PASTOR**

Dear (use the parishioner(s)' first name),

God has blessed you with many gifts! Yes, all of us as people of faith recognize that God has given us so many gifts – our families, friends, possessions, talents, skills, our very lives – everything that we have comes from our most generous God!

Our parish community has entered the time of the year when each of us as individuals and as a community are invited to reflect upon and pray about God's gifts in our lives. Our faith tells us that our gifts are to be used for the building up of God's Kingdom. Where is it that we do this? Certainly, we try to use our gifts in our families, in the workplace, in the community, in the world! And sometimes we find ways to use our gifts here in the parish by participating in the various ministries and works of the Church.

I have enclosed a special brochure listing our many ministries that I hope you will read during our Parish Stewardship Renewal campaign. It provides some stimulating food for thought as you think about the many ways God has gifted you. On September 22-23, we will celebrate the fact that God has given gifts to everyone in our community and I will ask that you pray about how you can share your gifts with your parish family.

Next month I will ask that you pray in gratitude for all the treasure that the Lord has given you, and I will ask that you prayerfully consider making a planned and proportionate pledge to your parish for its support. At that time you will also receive a letter from Archbishop Gregory requesting a pledge to the 2008 Archbishop's Annual Appeal. Supporting the larger Church in northern Georgia is all part of being a Christian steward of God's many gifts.

The Treasure phase of our renewal will be completed on Sunday, October 27-28, when you will be asked to return your pledge cards during Mass.

Whatever you decide, I would like to thank you for being a part of this parish community, and for helping us participate in the mission and ministry of Jesus. Here in our parish, through the sacraments, our common prayer and worship experiences, and using and sharing our gifts in the many ministries of love and service, "We are the Disciples of Christ and we are called to share."

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Pastor's name and signature)

**PASTOR'S FIRST LETTER TO ALL PARISHIONERS (TIME AND TALENT)**  
**AN INTRODUCTION TO 2008 STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL**

**HAND-SIGNED BY PASTOR**

Dear (use the parishioner(s)' first name),

We are kicking-off our annual Fall campaign to renew the life of our parish through stewardship. There are two phases to our Stewardship Renewal.

I. Stewardship of Time and Talent--This is our annual invitation to belong. Belong to what? You name it! Enclosed is a list of ministries in the parish - opportunities to serve and be served.

*If* you're already involved, your experience means a lot and will enhance your renewed commitment in the year ahead. Please renew your commitment. *If* there is something we do not offer and you think we should, please let us know. We may find other people interested and you might even find yourself chairperson of this activity! *If* no one has called you on your offer in the past, *this is your opportunity* to call the contact people listed and remind them.

*Stewardship of time and talent* phase will peak on ***Sunday, September 22-23, 2007.***

II. Stewardship of Treasure is your annual reminder to reconsider the monetary gift you give to God in gratitude and in trust for all His blessings. God's only plan for the support of His Church is the free will gifts offered by His grateful children. Since (church name) adopted stewardship as the central plan of support at our parish, we have been doubly blessed as a parish and as individuals.

Please note that the Archbishop's Annual Appeal will be conducted simultaneously as part of a total Stewardship program of which our Archdiocese is an essential part. In practice, it simply involves completing your stewardship pledge card, *as well as* your Archbishop's Annual Appeal card at the same time. You will receive a letter seeking your participation from Archbishop Gregory. This phase will be celebrated on ***Stewardship of Treasure Sunday, October 27-28, 2007***

Thank you for the important part you play in the life of our parish and the Archdiocese.  
Sincerely yours in Christ,

## PASTOR'S FIRST LETTER TO ALL PARISHIONERS (TIME AND TALENT)

### HAND-SIGNED BY PASTOR

Dear (use the parishioner(s)' first name),

Many of our families have come to embrace the spiritual principles of stewardship that center around our belief in God as the Giver of all good gifts. As Christians, we know that everything we have is from God - and all that we have is "on loan" to us. Stewardship addresses what we, who are faith-filled disciples of Jesus Christ, do with what God has given us.

Our annual stewardship renewal for time and talent begins this month. This is the time of year when people in our parish and across our archdiocese are invited to reflect upon God's generosity in the many facets of each of our lives. Our theme this year is *A Disciple's Response: Called to Share* and our time and talent renewal will help us explore how we develop, use and share God's gifts in all facets of our lives (at home, in our workplaces and communities, and right here in our parish).

We ask that, as we move forward in this annual Time and Talent renewal, each family spend time in prayer contemplating God's gifts and how those gifts are used and shared with others. The enclosed spiritual brochure is designed to help stimulate your reflection. Please take a few moments to read it in light of your own experience and faith.

At all of our Masses on September 22-23, we will have our annual Time and Talent Commitment Sunday that helps our parish community celebrate God's generosity in our lives. Yes, our God is most generous, and for this we give thanks and have reason to celebrate!

When we all act as good "Stewards of God's Gifts," we move closer to the realization of God's kingdom. May God bless all of our efforts. All praise and honor be to our God!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor

Stewardship Leader

**PASTOR'S FIRST LETTER TO ALL PARISHIONERS (TIME AND TALENT)**

**HAND-SIGNED BY PASTOR**

Dear (use the parishioner(s)' first name),

Stewardship is a response to our baptismal call to live as disciples of Jesus. We begin our annual Parish Stewardship Renewal campaign and we are asking each person to evaluate how they will respond to God's generosity this coming year in all aspects of life, and in particular in this parish community. How will you and your family share your gifts of time and talent this year in our parish?

Enclosed is a Ministry Directory and Time and Talent Commitment Card, which is designed to help you explore opportunities that are available for you to share your gifts with the parish this year. If you are currently involved in a parish ministry or activity, we ask you to consider renewing your commitment. If you are not involved, perhaps you will consider what gifts you have to offer. Only you know what you can share as a response to God's generosity in your life in terms of Time and Talent. Each family is different and circumstances vary.

The Commitment Cards will be presented at all Masses September 22-23. Whatever your decision for the sharing of your gifts of Time and Talent, we ask that you bring your completed Commitment Card to Mass at that time.

Thank you for the many ways in which you, as good "Stewards of God's Gifts," share what you have been given with others. May our most generous God continue to bless you and your family as you go about helping to promote God's kingdom.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor

Stewardship Leader

## PASTOR'S FIRST TREASURE LETTER TO ALL PARISHIONERS

### HAND-SIGNED BY PASTOR

Dear (use the parishioner(s)' first name),

Stewardship is an integral part of our parish life because it recognizes that everything we have and are comes from God. It involves a wise use of all the gifts God has given to us personally--our time, talent and material possessions and the gifts He has given us as a society--natural resources, the environment, etc. The Bible tells us that part of this recognition and use is that we must return to Him the first fruits of the gifts He has given us in recognition of our dependence on and gratitude to Him.

In addition to giving our time and talent, the Bible actually suggests that we give God a full 10% of our annual income. We suggest it be divided as follows: 5% to the parish, 1% to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal and the remaining 4% to other charities, (e.g., second collections, building fund). Some people feel that 5% to the parish offertory will not work for them. Prayerfully consider what you pledged for last year's parish offertory and attempt to increase that pledge by one-half percent for this year.

Our parish offertory goal this year is \$(goal). This year's total goal for the Archbishop's Annual Appeal is \$(goal). Our own parish part of that goal is \$(parish goal). I ask that you prayerfully consider what a difference you can make as you reflect upon the concept of true stewardship in your life and respond "*We are the Disciples of Christ and we are called to share.*"

Please understand that your pledge to the Annual Appeal is considered only for the 2008 calendar year. If you choose, you may start your donations in 2007, however, reminders will not be sent until January 2008.

Enclosed with this letter is a parish offertory commitment card. Please prayerfully consider a generous pledge to both the parish offertory and the Annual Appeal. The Archbishop will send you a pledge card for the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. Complete each pledge card and either mail them (please be sure to use the correct envelope) or bring them to church with you on Treasure Commitment Sunday, October 27-28.

**PASTOR'S FIRST TREASURE LETTER TO ALL PARISHIONERS**

**HAND-SIGNED BY PASTOR**

Dear (use the parishioner(s)' first name),

The Stewardship Committee and I are writing to seek your participation and support of the 2008 Archbishop's Annual Appeal. This is the appeal that supports our Archbishop and the ministries that he has established in order to meet the spiritual needs of the parishes and people living in North Georgia. As members of this parish, we have a responsibility for being involved and for supporting not only this parish but also the larger Church of the Archdiocese of Atlanta.

This responsibility comes because of our baptism and is an ancient tradition dating back to times of the Acts of the Apostles. As disciples of Jesus and members of the Roman Catholic Church, we are called to be stewards of the gifts that God has shared with us so graciously. As stewards we gratefully make a return to the Lord a portion of our time, talent, and treasure.

The Archbishop has given us a goal of \$\_\_\_\_\_ which is our parish's portion of the archdiocesan budget. During the next few weeks, we will be spending more time on the topic of stewardship and providing you with more information about the diocesan ministries that you are being asked to support. We, as your parish leaders, are contributing one percent of our income to this appeal. We ask you to join us. If you are unable to achieve the one-percent gift, please take a step toward that worthy goal.

We humbly ask you to express your commitment as a disciple by making a pledge to the 2008 Archbishop's Annual Appeal by responding "*We are the Disciple's of Christ and we are Called to Share.*"

Yours in Christ,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pastor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stewardship Committee Chairperson

**PASTOR'S FIRST TREASURE LETTER TO ALL PARISHIONERS  
COMBINING PARISH STEWARDSHIP AND ANNUAL APPEAL**

**HAND-SIGNED BY PASTOR**

Dear (use the parishioner(s)' first name),

During the next few weeks we will share more about stewardship, the parish, archdiocesan dimensions of our Catholic identity, and how each of us can be involved in the support of both the parish and the archdiocese.

I invite you to spend some time in prayer, considering how God has blessed you and your family. Your decision to participate should be based on your appreciation of the faith that has been passed on to you and for the many gifts and blessings you have received from God.

We will be asking you to make a pledge for the parish and for the archdiocese at all Masses during the next few weeks. As stewardship becomes our "way of life" in response to God's gifts in our lives, we are asked to move forward again this year toward the goal of a 5% gift of income to the parish and a 1% gift to the archdiocese. If these suggested percentages are not appropriate, please consider increasing your gift one-half percent over last year's gift. As a sign of your commitment, we invite you to use your Sunday envelope as a way to wrap your parish gift each week.

The Archbishop has asked us to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as our parish's portion of the archdiocesan budget. Please read the information that Archbishop Gregory has sent you. Together, we can become better stewards of all that God has given us by choosing to support our parish and archdiocese. Please pray that God will continue to supply all of our parish and archdiocesan needs for the next year through the generosity of our members. Your participation is a tremendous statement of your faith and commitment to the mission of our parish as Disciples of Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

## **PASTOR'S TIME AND TALENT THANK YOU LETTER**

### **HAND-SIGNED BY PASTOR**

Dear (use the parishioner(s)' first name),

Thank you very much for your commitment to share your time and talent with our parish and the community in the year 2008. More than (number) of our parish households have made time and talent commitments. It is through such commitments that we become better stewards of God's gifts.

In addition to the many ways you share your time and talent with your family and others, you have made a conscious decision to share your gifts with our parish community, and for that I am grateful.

The time and talent of our parishioners is a resource that continues to enrich our parish community. You will be contacted soon by the parish organization(s) in which you expressed interest. If, for some reason, you have not been contacted within two weeks, please call me personally.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Pastor's Name & Signature)

**PASTOR'S TIME AND TALENT THANK-YOU LETTER**

**HAND-SIGNED BY PASTOR**

Dear (use the parishioner(s)' first name),

The Stewardship Way of Life is a very helpful way to make our faith come alive! As Christian stewards, we are invited to become grateful witnesses of Jesus Christ in our homes, our workplace, our community, our parish – our world.

Your response to God's generosity in your life is inspirational! I thank you for completing a Commitment Card during this year's time and talent renewal.

I pray that our most generous God continues to bless you and your family as you help build up God's Kingdom in all aspects of your life!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor

## PASTOR'S TREASURE THANK YOU LETTER

### HAND-SIGNED BY PASTOR

Dear (use the parishioner(s)' first name),

Thank you for all you do for (parish name). Your pledge reflects Christ's love to many people whose lives are touched by the ministries and services of this faith community. We are called to share ourselves and our resources. We are called to join together to make a difference.

I am proud to be your pastor! The enthusiastic response of so many parishioners is a wonderful testament to how we reach out to others. Your response gives me confidence that we will continue to journey in faith and grow in our understanding of what it means to be a Disciple of Christ.

Please keep our parish family in your prayers, as I keep you in mine. Thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Pastor's name and signature)

**PASTOR'S TREASURE THANK YOU LETTER**

**HAND-SIGNED BY PASTOR**

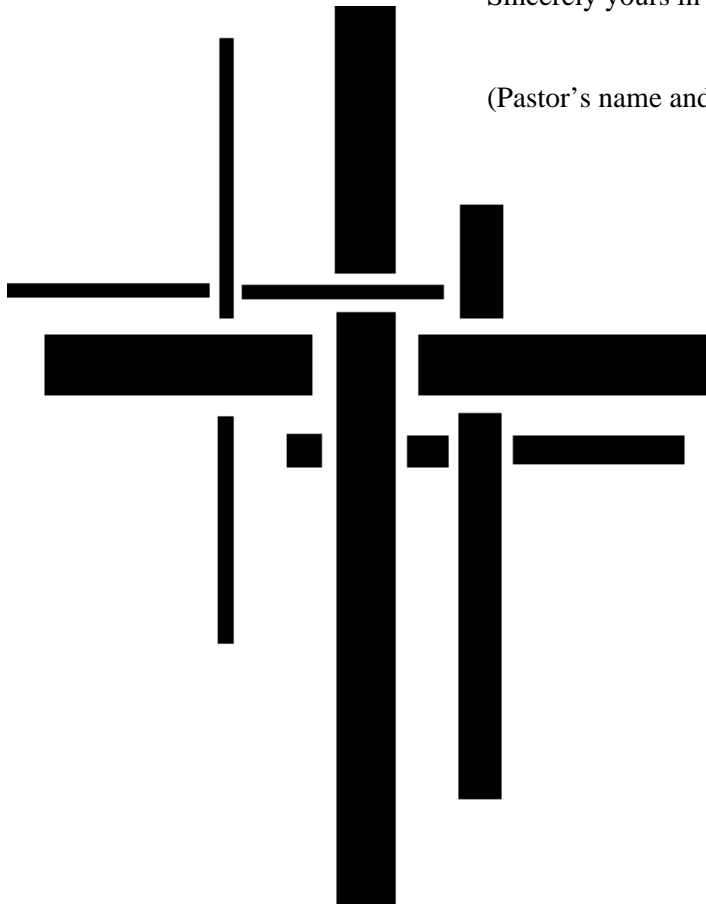
Dear (use the parishioner(s)' first name),

Your commitment to the parish offertory of \$(amount) for the coming year is most appreciated. It will allow our finance council and myself to act as good stewards and construct a budget that will help our parish be responsible with the resources available.

Your commitment also shows me that you embrace stewardship as a way of life and are giving back to God a portion of those gifts that He has so graciously given to you. Thank you for your support and may God continue to bless you and your family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Pastor's name and signature)



## PASTOR'S TREASURE FOLLOW-UP LETTER

### HAND-SIGNED BY PASTOR

**NEW!**

Dear (use the parishioner(s)' first name),

Recently I witnessed and shared the joy of all the members of our parish family who committed themselves to returning to God, in gratitude, a first portion of the gifts God will bestow on them during the next year. Sacrifices like these have made possible all the work of our parish over the years.

I am writing to those who did not return their Treasure Commitment Card. This process allows us to plan in advance our parish ministries for the year ahead.

More importantly, I sincerely believe this commitment serves as a vehicle of faith through which we can more fully appreciate our daily life. I want you to share the joy and peace of those who intend to be stewards of God's many blessings.

Please take a few minutes to prayerfully re-examine the brochures we provided and then indicate your decision about Stewardship on the Gift Reflection/Time & Service sheet and the income-sharing card. You can return them to the parish office, or place them in the offertory collection at Mass this weekend. If you need replacement copies of the sheet/card or brochures or if there is anything I can do to make your participation possible, please call or write to the parish office.

Please join with all of us who have decided to return to our Lord the first fruits of His generous blessings. It can change your life.

Sincerely and Gratefully in Christ Jesus,

Father

## PASTOR'S TREASURE FOLLOW-UP LETTER

### HAND-SIGNED BY PASTOR

Dear (use the parishioner(s)' first name),

I am happy to tell you that the response to our 2008 parish Stewardship Renewal and the Archbishop's Annual Appeal has been excellent. So far, many families have made commitments of treasure to both our parish offertory and the Annual Appeal. Many have also committed their time and talent.

While I am pleased that so many in our community have embraced this combined effort of parish Stewardship Renewal and the Archbishop's Annual Appeal, our parish community and the Archdiocese will only be stronger with commitments *from many more of its members*. That commitment to true stewardship will also enhance each individual's faith experience.

We are now at \_\_\_\_\_ percent of our parish offertory goal and at \_\_\_\_\_ percent of our parish Annual Appeal goal. So far (number of families) families have committed \$(amount pledged) toward our parish offertory goal of \$(amount) and (number of families) families have committed \$(amount pledged) toward our parish Annual Appeal goal of \$(amount).

In case you have misplaced your parish offertory commitment card, I am enclosing another one for your convenience. Please mail the completed card in the enclosed envelope or drop it in the collection basket this weekend.

As a parish and Archdiocesan community, we are the Disciples of Christ. As members of that community, it is our personal responsibility to make it grow and prosper. We are good stewards when we make these commitments. I hope you will make a prayerful and generous response to this appeal.

Sincerely,

(Pastor's name and signature)

## PASTOR'S TREASURE FOLLOW-UP LETTER

### HAND-SIGNED BY PASTOR

Dear (use the parishioner(s)' first name),

With \$\_\_\_\_\_ already received in pledges, our 2008 Archbishop's Annual Appeal has the look of success. More than \_\_\_\_\_ parishioners have already made their commitment in support of the Annual Appeal. These are gifts that keep on giving through the many services, programs, and ministries funded by the Appeal.

This year, our goal is to offer *all* members of our parish an opportunity to participate. We always hope that all members of our parish will make a gift in thanksgiving for the gifts God has given them. I'm prayerfully asking you to become a contributing member of this Appeal. It is only through the combined effort of all our parishes throughout the Archdiocese that these services, funded by the Archbishop's Annual Appeal, can be provided.

Please complete your pledge envelope in a spirit of generosity and Christian Stewardship. No gift is too small...no gift is too large...when given from the heart. You may drop your pledge envelope in the offertory basket or drop it in the mail.

On behalf of all those whose lives will be changed by your gift, I thank you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

<<pastor's name and signature>>