

October 12, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As St. Peter's begins its stewardship campaign, it is time for each of us to seriously consider our financial contribution for next year. 2020 has been a difficult time of uncertainty. Let us also remember that throughout history the followers of Jesus lived out the Gospel in challenging and uncertain times. By following their example, we are assured that the thoughtful and prayerful act of giving back to God acknowledges our dependence on God and our trust in Him to provide for our own needs. Philippians 4:6-7 gives us the assurance that we need:

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

As a child, I was fortunate enough to have parents who taught me at a very young age about giving a tenth of my allowance back to God. They ordered small, dated envelopes for me to use on Sundays when I received my allowance. I watched them as they wrote their checks to go into their envelopes and then we placed them, together, in the offering plate each week. In following their example, I have paid my pledge at the beginning of each new year. I have found that the best way for me to determine what is the most appropriate gift is through prayer and reading verses in the Old and New Testaments that address giving. Another source of inspiration has been listening to other parishioners who shared with us their reason for giving.

Our hearts must remain open, even though the doors to St. Peter's are temporarily closed. St. Peter's has been a vital part of the Rome community due to its rich 176-year history and because of its many mission and outreach programs. We have been creative in devising new ways to execute some of those missions because of the pandemic, and the need for them is now more critical than ever. If we are going to fulfill St. Peter's vision to accept, share and affirm the love of Christ, then it is up to us to make a generous, financial commitment to support our church.

Finally, I would ask you to consider the 17th verse in the 16th chapter of Deuteronomy:

“Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you.”

Yours in Christ,

Anne Kerr