

"FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK" and from the STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE 3/9/13

Dear Parishioners,

In the spirit of Stewardship, a percentage of the offertory income of our parish is used to support needs outside the parish. Alas, due to budgetary constraints, the Finance Committee last year suggested that our 'tithes' be reduced from 5% to 1% for this fiscal year, with the hope of raising it back up over time, as our finances hopefully improve. The bulletin's weekly amount on the "Stewardship" line on page 3 reads: \$46.15 (x 52 = \$2,400). The committee recommends \$3,000 be donated next fiscal year.

Some might question the wisdom of donating any money when the parish has debts to pay. But, we are doing as a church what we ask you to do - namely, continue to give a % of your income to your parish, even if financial circumstances change. So, for example, if offertory income is down, then the percent donated will also be less.

The Stewardship Committee (members: 2 Trustees, Pastor, Pastoral Associate for Administration & Pastoral Care, Pastoral Council President, Food Pantry Coordinator) meets twice a year (on or near "Stewardship Sunday" in the Fall & during Lent, in the spirit of almsgiving) to recommend allocations in your name. Bequests are published in the bulletin; parishioner suggestions are welcome (E.g., missionary relations/friends).

The Committee's recommendations for Lent 2013 distribution are as follows:

ST. PATRICK'S FOOD PANTRY = 1/4 of each month's 'tithes' goes to feed our poor	\$600
LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR: O.L.H., Latham: Sisters invited to take up a collection + \$50	
CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (of which St. Patrick's is a member)	\$300
C.A.C.C. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Fund: booklet ad	\$ 78
COMMUNITY HOSPICE FOUNDATION: Columbia-Greene [our Deanery]	\$ 50
COMMUNITY HOSPICE: Africa/AIDS program	\$ 50
CAPITAL DISTRICT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY	\$ 50
HAVEN GRIEF COUNSELING CENTER	\$ 50
SISTERS OF MERCY: given history at St. Patrick's School, @\$1 yr. for the Srs. "150th"	\$150
INTERFAITH PARTNERSHIP FOR THE HOMELESS (Albany): Pennies for Haven +	\$ 100
THE FOOD PANTRIES: 19th COMMUNITY AUCTION (225 chances)	\$ 50
CAPITAL CITY RESCUE MISSION[our Confirmation Candidates made an on-sight visit]	\$100
CATHOLIC CHARITIES"AIDS"SERVICES: our parish"Personal Care& Household"drive+\$60	
OUR LADY OF THE AMERICA'S "FAMILY PROMISE" [housing]	\$100
R/C/S Class of '12 YEARBOOK ad	\$100
"ABOUNDING LOVE" Hurricane Sandy relief	\$100
S.A.L.T. Hurricane Irene relief	\$100
THE SALVATION ARMY: "Bed & Bread Club"	\$120
EMMAUS HOUSE (ALBANY): THE CATHOLIC WORKER	\$ 50
LA SALLE SCHOOL (Albany): "NEEDY BOY FUND"	\$100
PAULIST prison ministry [to honor our Deacon's ministry]	<u>\$ 75</u>
TOTAL =	\$2,433

In addition, the Committee endorses the sales in the parish by the "Work of Human Hands" (the diocesan Peace & Justice Commission) & the "Alight" baby bottle drive each year.