

Dear XXXXXX,

Many thanks for your ongoing support of our parish, XXXXX. This letter, is our annual invitation to you for continuing your generosity to the work God has called us to. There are several items in this enclosure which hopefully will give you pause to think about XXX and your faith journey:

A brochure about XXX and its mission, ministry and outlook;

A financial pledge for what you can commit for the next year.

Two commitment forms for what time over the next year you can commit for your spiritual journey, for others and for XXXXX.

Previously, you may have looked at the church's needs to receive. This year we suggest it isn't about the church's needs, but your needs ... *our needs. Our scriptures are fairly clear of how generosity changes our lives. When we give beyond and place ourselves firmly in the path of becoming generous, we open ourselves to understanding how much we humans are truly blessed.* The following about Zacchaeus contains some insights on how we humans can become blessed:

*He entered Jericho and was passing through it. 2A man was there named Zacciiaeus; lze was a chief tax collector and was rich. 3He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd lze could not, because he was short in stature. 4so he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. 5When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." 6so he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. 7All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." "Zacchueus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much. " "Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. 10For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost. -Luke 19:1-10*

This story of Jesus and Zacchaeus is about how generosity works within our lives. Sometimes, like Zacchaeus, we are there when Jesus passes through. Sometimes we have to climb and try to get a better view, and then are given an opportunity to have Jesus stay with us. And sometimes, we come to recognize that we are lost and need to be found.

A Draft Annual Stewardship Letter

We live in times of great abundance. Yet sometimes we lose track of it all. Instead the shallow of scarcity interferes. The story of Zacchaeus once again informs us that abundance is the way God made the world and us. And, we are just children in comprehending what it is all

about that truly our lives are meant to live giving freely and exercising joyfully our gifts through mission and ministry.

Enclosed are opportunities to give and be given. One is for a financial pledge with a proportionate giving chart. The second is an opportunity to commit in definite terms what time you plan to commit towards involving yourself on your spiritual journey, giving talent and time for others and XXXXXX. These opportunities are really choices each of us can make, and at the end we know that they will shape and contribute in untold ways to our lives and more importantly to the lives of others.

We look forward to receiving your plans of how you are like Zacchaeus, *ready to give and to be blessed.*