



Saint Cecilia S C H O O L

2900 Hoover Avenue • Ames, Iowa 50010-4460

tel: 515/232-5290 • fax: 515/233-6423 • www.stcames.com

August 9, 2014

Dear Saint Cecilia Parishioners:

In 1925 Saint Cecilia Catholic Grade School was established by our forbearers as a primary way of forming and educating the children of our parish in the Catholic faith and, at the same time, providing quality instruction in secular academic subjects.

Much has changed in eighty-nine years! Our parish now supports a variety of faith formation and educational opportunities for all of us: children through adults. In 1925, (and for many years of its history) St. Cecilia School was staffed by the Sisters of Mercy from Cedar Rapids. Today, it, like most of our present faith formation and educational ministries, is staffed by professionally trained lay persons.

Recent documents both of the Vatican and the Bishops of the United States in addressing the area of faith formation and education, while promoting all of the various forms today, specifically address the unique role that Catholic schools continue to play in the life of the church.

Like everything else, Catholic school costs continue to rise. Administrators and teachers must be compensated justly, ideally on a par (or as near as possible) to their peers in the public sector. Educational supplies, especially today technology, must be provided. While the primary cost of running the school lies with the families who choose it as a formational and educational choice for their children, and the parish provides an additional subsidy, and through a form of tuition assistance in a program such as the state Student Tuition Organization (STO), some families find themselves in additional need of financial assistance.


Over the years, generous donors have given money specifically to assist families confronting financial need in order for their child(ren) to attend St. Cecilia School. **Our local parish tuition assistance fund is now depleted. We write this letter to you seeking your financial help so that we can help deserving families provide a Catholic school education for their child(ren). No gift is too large. No gift is too small.** Families who request it receive assistance ranging from \$250 to \$1750. Tuition assistance is based on need and is never 100%. Families receiving assistance are expected to fully participate in the cost of their child(ren)'s education to the extent possible.

Please prayerfully consider a financial gift to our local tuition assistance fund. Be assured of the gratitude of all the families and students at St. Cecilia School that your gift will help.

In Christ,



Rev. James L. Secora, Pastor



Mr. Erv Rowlands, Principal, St. Cecilia School

FAMILY OF FAITH CELEBRATION

Where: St. Cecilia South and West Lawn

When: Friday August 15th. 5:00pm-7:30pm.

Following 4pm Mass for the Feast of the
Assumption of Mary.

Come and join St. Cecilia for a night of food,
carnival games for children and minute to win it
games for teens!



Over



CELEBRACIÓN DE LAS FAMILIAS DE FE

**Dónde: El césped del lado sur y oeste de Santa
Cecilia**

Cuando: Viernes 15 de agosto. 5:00-7:30pm

Nos encontraremos después de la misa de las 4pm
de la asunción de María.

úñase a la Iglesia Santa Cecilia para comida, juegos
de carnaval para jóvenes y otras diversiones.

Otro Lado



Stewardship, An Overview

- Stewardship is a Way of Life, a life of total accountability and responsibility, acknowledging God as Creator and Owner of all. Stewards as disciples of Jesus Christ see themselves as caretakers of all God's gifts. Gratitude for these gifts is expressed in prayer, worship, offering, and action by eagerly sharing these gifts out of love of God and one another.
- Stewardship is based on the spiritual principles of the Old Testament and the teachings of Jesus; and where it has been implemented, both givers' and receivers' lives have been changed. Stewardship is a way of life, a way of thanking God for all His blessings by returning a portion of the time, talent, and treasure given to us.
- Stewardship is living out Christ's instruction to "love one another as I have loved you."
- Stewardship is caring. Stewardship is responsible management of our God-given resources of time, talent, and treasure. It enhances our relationship with God and one another.
- Stewardship pleases God because the good steward is careful of creation, is respectful of justice and charity, and is prayerful at all times. "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more." (Luke 12:48)
- Stewardship is living out a commitment to be God-centered rather than self-centered. Profound gratitude, justice and love become the fundamental motives for giving back to God, the Creator and giver of all good gifts.
- Christian stewardship provides spirituality that a lay person can take home from church, exercise at work, and express through personal involvement in both the community and the Church.
- Christian stewardship successfully bridges the material world around us and the world of the Spirit within us.
- Stewardship gives joy! Those who voluntarily give their time and abilities for work in the parish will always experience joy if they give them for Christ.
- Stewardship is not job-oriented or project-minded. It is a way of life for a lifetime.
- Christian stewardship takes a positive view of money. It sees money not only as a medium of exchange but as a symbol of the person who has it. We reveal something of who we are by the way we acquire it, use it, and share it.
- Christian stewardship helps us to be aware that God is the giver of the gifts we have. Our gift to God should be from the top – the first fruits – not from what may be left over.
- Stewardship teaches Christians to be concerned about where and how to share their gifts. Stewardship is not just giving to meet the budget.
- Jesus Christ is God's greatest gift to us. Stewardship tells us to share a portion of our time, talent, and treasure so that the Gift, Jesus Christ, may be given to those who do not know Him.

Theological Basis

The following theological points serve as a basis for a Christian way of life expressed through stewardship:

- Stewardship expresses a basic attitude of gratitude to God for God's many gifts to us and the trust we have in God as the ultimate source of our security.
- As stewards we are called to use these gifts to further God's creative and redemptive purposes; as stewards we use God's gifts for God's purposes.
- God's creative and redemptive purposes are most fully revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of God's son, Jesus. The basic pattern of Jesus' work is found in the Paschal mystery. It is a pattern of giving life for the sake of others, and in the giving, finding life more fully realized for ourselves and for those to whom we give.
- The Church is a gathering of disciples who nurture and encourage one another in discipleship. The practice of discipleship in and through the Church is one of the primary ways we are called to follow Jesus. It is the whole Church, the Body of Christ that is responsible for carrying on the work of Christ in the world today.
- Our sharing in the Paschal mystery of Jesus brings us to the notion of sacrifice as a sign of gratitude, praise, and trust in God. Sacrifice means giving from our substance – so we are changed by our giving.

An analogy: The bread and wine we offer at the Eucharist represent the whole of our lives. When they are transformed, the whole of our lives is transformed. So, too, the symbolic offering of a significant portion of our time, talent, and treasure is a sign of our giving our whole lives to God, and our whole lives are transformed in the action,

Our offering of time, talent and treasure is one way of saying: We belong to the Lord and to one another. It is an...

Act of Faith: We acknowledge and profess that we belong to God and all that we possess is His.

Act of Trust: We place our life in God's loving hands and make Him our treasure.

Act of Worship: We adore Him as the giver of all good gifts.

Act of Belonging: We unite our offering with those of others in our parish and universal Church family so that together we might care for the needs of one another, especially the poor.

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." (Peter 4:10)

St. Paul reminds us that we are but one body with many parts. For the body to function, those parts are interdependent. Christ expects us to work with Him to make the mission of the Church real, vibrant and alive. Stewardship requires participation in the mission of the Church. The challenge of stewardship is to direct our doing. Each of us is here for a purpose. Each of us is here to make a difference. According to the parables of stewardship, God charges us with the building of the Kingdom.