



## MARY, QUEEN OF PEACE CATHOLIC PARISH

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH & ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH

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January 11, 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy New Year! May God bless us all in 2021.

This month, we are introducing a new program at Mary Queen of Peace Parish. This initiative asks us all to examine the ways we can work together to strengthen the Church in Medford and beyond by committing ourselves to the missionary work of evangelization – the work of bringing the Gospel of Christ to all people. We will be encouraged to give back a just portion of ourselves and our gifts to strengthen and sustain our Parish for this critical ministry.

Like your family, our Parish has struggled to navigate the numerous challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. The truth, however, is that our Parish has been struggling to evangelize and grow for many years before this one. The goal of the *Grateful Discipleship Program* is to look within our hearts and find what place Christian Stewardship plays in our lives and challenge ourselves to do even more to advance the work of Jesus Christ in our neighborhoods and our world.

As we conclude this Christmas Season, we ask parishioners to consider how they have prioritized their gifts of time, talent and treasure. It is our hope that you will evaluate your blessings and, out of a spirit of gratitude and generosity, prayerfully consider making a commitment to your Parish. When we are intentional in setting aside the “first fruits of our labors” and committing to sharing the blessings God has bestowed upon us, then the Parish can truly advance in its mission to evangelize, teach, serve, worship and reach out to establish a fair and just world.

We have several key goals we hope to address through the commitments made in this program:

- Increasing participation at Mass, Adoration, Prayer Group, Book Club and Bible Study
- Supporting the work of our wonderful staff by growing the number of volunteers by 25%
- Establishing an offertory pledging program that will allow the Parish to accurately forecast and budget for the coming year

The enclosed brochure and commitment form describe the initiative and explain what it means to be a Grateful Disciple in further detail. We are building toward January 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, which is Discipleship Weekend. I ask that you prayerfully discern this request and return your completed commitment form by that day.

On behalf of the entire Parish, I want to thank you for the contributions of time, talent and treasure you provide to our Parish. While I do not know if you are capable of increasing your levels of involvement and support, I hope that you will give it prayerful consideration.

Thank you again for all you have done in the past for our Parish and please know I will continue to keep you and your family in my prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Paul V. Sullivan, Pastor