



Stewardship Reflection

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Definitely not politically correct in these times but the now Venerable Fulton Sheen in his writings talks about white grace and black grace, souls who have found God and feel the Divine Presence and those who feel not God's Presence but His absence, those looking for Him – thirsting, hungering, seeking....

Here at Saint James, we have a faith community that welcomes all souls, graces in all shades. My wife and I and our kids have found a home in this

parish, since we first stepped into this church in 1996. A parishioner invited us strangers for lunch after Mass and so, soon after, we got introduced to others, and even sooner, got settled to become familiar faces to this community.

The years have blest us with friends and acquaintances—all brothers and sisters in Christ, sharing life's laughter and tears, its joy, and fears. Aren't we continually blest with good priests, young and old, ministering to our needs like The Good Shepherd they represent? The wonderful Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia even add the full measure of blessings to the mix by their presence, especially in Catholic education and faith formation.

It is said, "The heart of religion is worship, and the heart of worship is sacrifice". And Stewardship – because in essence is a "giving-up" for Christ's Mystical Body – is truly our sacrifice offered for God's glory. If ever you find yourself lost, unable to connect, or find purpose, Stewardship might find you – your calling – as it did for many of us. My wife and I are presently active in worship and prayer ministries and RCIA. We have been blest much and so thankful. Our parish invites us to consider this holy opportunity each year, our chance to satisfy that thirst, that hunger, or share what we have. This cornerstone in the life of our faith family is the altar that allows us some way to be a part of it all.

So let God's Kingdom come! Let us share our time, our treasure, our talents with His Spirit. It is our participation in spreading Christ's transformative love, making all hearts burn white grace. Indeed, we all can change the world, starting in this little corner of Elizabethtown. Like family, we will find support in countless ways at Saint James, and always, we will find love unconditionally, just as perfect as the Holy Eucharist we celebrate.

We are ever so grateful that this parish has become our home, the peace of God's Presence in our hearts, and only a short distance away from home, as well. And if ever you or I or any stranger need a break from the daily grind, a place of solitude with our Lord, isn't Saint James just the place to be? Yes, and definitely, the family that we all seek – one that makes us believe, "There's no place like home" – it is here!