



## Stewardship Reflection

Gail Hereford

When I reflect on my journey as a Catholic, it always brings a smile into my heart. There has never been a time that I can remember that I have not felt how deeply blessed I am to first, be an active Catholic in this parish, and second to be able to give back some of the good I feel by just being here. James 2: 21-24 is so strong to me. At an early age I learned that being an active part of the church makes your faith more personal. I am an old soul that way. I once asked Father Stan what I can do, I feel so blessed and I do not feel like I am giving back as much as I am getting on this journey. Father told me that I could not outgive God; that I should continue to faithfully serve in any capacity I could with the gifts God has given me. Then he said it is not how much but my response when asked. We are strong but we could be stronger.

When I first considered the Catholic faith, I questioned the need for so many classes in RCIA, but the journey was so outstanding I became a RCIA team member. Serving as a Communion minister is one of the most humbling experiences for me. I remember getting so emotional standing there one time I could not hold the tears back. I also have served for the Red Cross Blood Drive, Social Committee, Resurrection Choir for a short time. I was serving under a wonderful person volunteering on the Welcome Committee before I knew what happened; Betty Sue had convinced me I could chair this committee. It is now one of my joys to work on this committee with so many wonderful volunteers. We enjoy making our new parishioners to Saint James feel welcome.

Sometimes I think I get a little tired but then I think "I get to" journey with a new RCIA member, welcome new families to our parish family, serve with friends on the social committee, and be a communion minister. What can be better?

Finally, in my position at Saint James I get to represent Saint James as a loving parish family to everyone who walks through our office door.

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve Saint James in these ministries.

Love, Gail