

Stewardship Reflection

A.D. and Elaine Alicna



My husband, A. D., and I were married in 1970 at St. Ambrose in Cecilia which was my home parish. Once we were married, we joined St. James, but we both had been part of St. James before we officially became members. I graduated from Elizabethtown Catholic High School and was involved in activities at St. James during that time, and A. D. had attended St. James before joining the Navy.

I learned about stewardship at a very early age. My parents were always involved in everything that was going on at St. Ambrose. I became the organist there as a teenager, and I continued to play the organ there throughout high school and throughout my college years on the weekends when I came home. My parents instilled in me the importance of sharing what talents I had to offer, no matter how little they might be, with my church community.

Over the years at St. James, A. D. and I have been and still are active in a variety of ministries. He has served on the Parish Council, has been an usher, and has been an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. He has also been a member of the Knights of Columbus for many years. He volunteers numerous hours each week at the St. Vincent De Paul Store, and he has volunteered at St. James School many times over the years. We both were among the original members of the Grandparents' Club at the school. We both have been on the steering committee for the Thanksgiving Dinner since its inception in 1986. We now have three generations of our family involved in this ministry. Our son has been a part of this since 1986 when he was just a little boy, and now he, his wife, and three boys all volunteer. In addition, we both were involved in the establishment of the Bereavement Ministry under the leadership of Deacon Joe Chathaparampil. We will be so happy to be able to begin having meals again following funerals in the very near future. We are also both members of the Forever Young Club. In the past, I have served on the St. James School Board, have taught CCD, have been involved in RCIA, and I sang in the choir for over twenty years. Currently, I am an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, take communion to an assisted living facility, serve as a door greeter, serve as a substitute collection counter, serve as a member of the Altar Guild, volunteer at the St. Vincent De Paul Store, and serve on a committee that has recently revised the St. James School Enrollment Management Plan.

We both feel that it takes being active in our church to make us feel a part of our church community. We have met so many wonderful friends through our involvement in these activities. We feel that God has blessed us in so many ways and has helped us through so much in our lives, and now we want to give back by doing what we can to help others. Our advice would be to get involved. If you do, then this will become your church!

A. D. and Elaine Alicna