



What Stewardship Means to Us

Fifth in a series of parishioners' stories

Rick Lavoie

My family and I joined Christ & Holy Trinity almost seven years ago after a thorough “church tour”. We were looking for life after Catholicism and once we experienced our first liturgy at C&HT, we knew it was right for us. The community, inspiring music, numerous programs, and the impactful outreach all come together in a fabric to make a truly outstanding spiritual experience.

My wife Kelly and I have three girls. Madison is 13, Mackenzie almost 11 and Macey almost 7. When I mention my lone male status in our house to people I meet, I often get some humorous condolences of dealing with an all female, highly emotionally charged domain. I usually respond with an agreeing response but I know how blessed I am. When we started having these little gems, it began with joy which led quickly to busyness then often to insanity but we never lose touch with the joy. Family and household life is never short on stress which many of you can attest to. Factor in all the pressure from the outside world, particularly the economic challenges we’ve all been facing, and it creates a highly demanding circumstance.

When work becomes interrupted and future security is uncertain as I and many have experienced, we tend to apply an even tighter grip on finances and many facets in our lives. I recently realized I need to let go and loosen my tightening grip on finances and other areas in my life when times get tight. I had the opportunity to share this recent personal discovery during the liturgies on October 18. As hard as it is to do, I began to resist the natural inclination to apply more control. This new approach is a heightened level of faith and it started to offer much more freedom. Letting the grace of God and faith in myself take over the steering wheel to forward me in the right directions felt right. Gripping the wheel tighter doesn’t take you down a better road.

I now feel much more empowered to give more of my time, treasure and talent, not less in these tight times. I’ve become more generous to charities, the church, and generally contribute more. I have re-shifted my priorities and I am happier.

Then something really interesting happened shortly afterward experiencing this transformation. An opportunity presented itself to me which would afford me more security, flexibility and freedom than ever before. I’m not implying that letting go, loosening your grip, and giving more will offer you new opportunities. Maybe it was a coincidence...or maybe not. I think God put me in a state of mind to accept a new role and more security. I think it comes down to entrusting yourself in yourself, and yourself in God more and more.

The most important thing is we have empowerment we sometimes don’t even realize we possess and all of us are blessed to be part of this great spiritual community here at CHT that I firmly believe helps us achieve this empowerment. I invite you to try and loosen your grip, give where you’re talents, time and treasure are needed, and enjoy the freedom and the blessings that can come your way.