

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In parish life we often hear about the need to give our “time, talent and treasure” to the Lord’s work. I’ve often been a bit cynical about this thinking that it was usually just a nice way to encourage people to give more in the collection.

It is true, however, that we need all three areas of gift giving. In the past at OLR many of the families lived in the local community. Volunteers for church cleaning, hospitality and welcome came from the women—most of whom did not have employment outside the home. In today’s context that is not the case. Most able bodied women work outside the home and live at some distance from the church campus. We now employ professional cleaners to do most of the cleaning work. However, we still need a small team of folks to do some light cleaning and tidying up week by week. This is something that could be taken on by a group of people or a family effort. School families can use this as their volunteer hours. If you can help and would like to learn more about this volunteer opportunity, please contact Martha Mahan at the parish office.

Another need is for additional ushers. Ushers do more than hand out worship aids and seat people before Mass. They assist with security, parking and are trained to respond to visitors in need and possible emergency situations. Men and women over the age of eighteen may volunteer. Again—school families can count this as volunteer hours. To learn more, contact the ushers after Mass this weekend or be in touch with Martha at the parish office.

Talent? Volunteer your musical talent by joining the choir. Mr. Phillips would love to meet you. Volunteer your communications talent by teaching our children in CCD or helping with the youth work. Be in touch with JohnMark Cayer, our Director of Faith Formation.

Treasure? On the weekend of September 14-15, we will have a special collection with the target of paying off the new land purchase to the North of our campus. We still owe the Diocese about \$300,000, and we would love to save thousands of dollars of interest payments and clear this debt. When we have a goal to reach, I like to divide it among all our people just to see what that looks like. So: we have about 1,000 registered households in the parish. That easy: if each household gave \$300.00 we’d be there. But remember—some folks can’t afford to give \$30.00 and others can afford to pay the full \$300,000 themselves! So, with this in mind, all of us need to dig deep and on Sept 14-15, come prepared to make a substantial gift so we can be debt free.

Your Pastor,  
Fr. Longenecker