

Dear Friends,

As Christian disciples we are entrusted with the mission of a renewal of faith through evangelization, catechesis, stewardship and outreach to our diverse community.

This is our new parish mission statement approved by the Pastoral Council this past May. For the last several weeks, we have been reading about the main characteristics of our mission statement. I wrote a letter on evangelization. Alaisa Emmens, our Coordinator of Religious Education, wrote a letter on catechesis. Jill Hansen, our Business Manager and Parish Secretary, who is also the chairperson for the Stewardship Commission, wrote a letter about the mission of stewardship. Finally, I am going to write about the importance of outreach to our diverse community.

We are a diverse community because we have two large culture groups living in Genoa, Kingston and Kirkland: Anglos and Hispanics. Each culture has unique characteristics, traditions and needs that must be respected despite the fact that there are so many differences between us. Poverty, however, knows no boundaries, language barriers or cultural differences. The Gospels call us to pay attention to the needs of all who are poor without discriminating against anyone who requires our charity.

Over the last three and one half years, I have witnessed the generosity of this community in many different ways.

- We, as a parish community, have paid close attention to the needs of people who are sick, by offering our prayers through the prayer chain, bringing them Holy Communion on the weekends and by providing financial assistance. Compassionate Ministries also provides comforters, flowers, cards and other forms of support for the sick and the elderly.
- Compassionate Ministries also sends packages to military personnel from our parish.

- Our parish has provided all kinds of food for the Genoa/Kingston Food Pantry through the monthly reverse collections. Volunteers also help take the food across the street to the pantry and they are there to help distribute the food to those who use the G.K. Pantry.
- We have worked hard to welcome new families into our parish by bringing them welcome baskets and celebrating their presence through receptions.
- Our parish's Golf Outings have provided direct assistance to families that have been impacted by the harsh economy and by the incredible pain of terminal sickness and death.
- We are currently contributing one half of one percent of our weekly offertory to organizations that assist the needs of the poor in our area and throughout the world.
- Our parish is currently linked with St. Mary Parish, Aurora, a parish that has fallen on significant financial distress. We are helping them financially through parish tithes, the School Supply Drive and through many other ways.

This is not a complete list of all the things our parish does, but it helps us to see that we do a tremendous amount of good in the community.

The Church is meant to be a place of worship and prayer; it is a place where we can gather to celebrate our identity as Catholic Christians. The Church is also who we are. We are members of the Body of Christ called to know, love and serve him. We have an extremely important role to play in the overall life of our community and we need to take our mission seriously. I am truly humbled and inspired by the powerful commitments we make to catechize, care for and love the people of God in so many different ways. We are a wonderful parish.

In joyful hope,
Fr. Tim Seigel