



From the *Pastor's Desk*



Stewardship 2018

As we move into the third week of our 2018 Stewardship Campaign, I would like to review with you Pete Shepherd's reflection regarding the vineyard of Our Lady of Guadalupe. How do you envision your roll in our vineyard; planting, watering, and pruning?

The reason for our Fall Stewardship renewal season is to focus on the basic operations of the parish. The basic money that you provide to us is called Ordinary Income. It is made up of the checks and cash that you put in Sunday envelopes and place in the collection basket, the coins and bills you just put in the basket anonymously, and the donations you make to the parish electronically using our Vanco payment processing platform (which, you may be interested to know, now makes up 38% of our ordinary income.)

Ordinary Income is best understood in terms of a household budget. In the household budget of Our Lady of Guadalupe, there are familiar expenses, like the mortgage (The total interest expense last year was \$41,239.) and utilities totaling around \$43,200. We also have expenses that are unique to our mission, and used to celebrate the Eucharist or teach faith formation like candles, hosts, wine, books, bulletins, inserts, flyers and worksheets. And the assessment to support the archdiocese.

Unlike the household budget, we have salaries and benefits that make up 55% of the parish budget. This category includes the parish and visiting priests, office and facilities staff, lay ministers who help to plan, organize and coordinate parish programs like faith formation, RCIA, liturgy, outreach to the home bound and peace and justice initiatives, and an annual support subsidy to the school of \$140,000 - one of the chief ministries of the parish.

Ordinary Income must cover the bulk of our budget. In the past two years, our ordinary income has been in a slow downward trajectory, suggesting that over time we either need to reverse the downward trend in ordinary income or we need to scale back parish operations to stay within declining revenues. However, while our ordinary income has been gently sliding, you have donated to the debt reduction campaign and to many other good causes.

In the next two weeks, I ask that you consider this information before turning in your pledge card with me on October 22nd. Look at the overall giving that you do, and have your own "giving allocation or budget," which includes a core contribution to parish ordinary income, and a selection of other needs and ministries which you wish to support such as St. Vincent DePaul or Catholic Community Services, etc.

Fall Stewardship offers an opportunity to parishioners old and new, and to friends of our parish who may attend from time to time and partake of the good things found here, to consider making a commitment to help provide the resources necessary for OLG to be the parish faith community that is life giving for you. What you are able to provide is what stays here to fund our core parish expenses.

To review Pete's reflection and to listen to some incredible messages from a few years ago, when our own high school students shared their hope for the church of their future go to our website at www.orgseattle.org

Fr. Jack