



## From the Pastor's Desk



My good friends, we have arrived at Commitment Sunday!

Last week, I spoke to you about God's power to push us beyond where we are comfortable, to look at the needs of our community and our world.

Our call to Stewardship this year is a call to reflect and visit our conscience. To listen to the voice of God in our hearts that really knows how far we can and should go on our journey of faith.

Reflection around this year's commitment time is telling ourselves not to be the center but rather letting Jesus, the community, and its needs be the center.

It is in that spirit that I invite you to make your commitment today.

Commit today, having listened to the wisdom of Fr. Raschko when he said, "The whole life and the whole ministry of Jesus is defined by this central attitude--placing his life at the service of others and finding life in greater abundance when he does so."

Way deep down religion is about the *energy*: how the energy of life flows through us. If it all just flows in and is centered on us---that leads to death. If it flows through us and out to others---that is the path to life.

The basic overview of the financial workings of our parish from Pete Shepherd, where he reminded us the reason for our Fall Stewardship renewal season is to focus on the basic operations of the parish. Which is, in its basic form, us placing our life at the service of others as Jesus has taught us to do. To accomplish this, our ordinary income must cover the bulk of our budget which is where your energy flow of generosity takes form.

My reflection from last week; remembering the description of Robert and his Dad during a speech they attended, the extraordinary flow of loving energy between them. That is what you give here at Our Lady of Guadalupe, your love. Just as Jesus loves you.

Please listen to your heart and God's quiet whisper when you fill out your commitment card today. I look forward to joining you at the altar where we will make our financial commitment for 2018 and regain our soaring energy, together!

*Fr. Joe Stove*

"When we are really honest with ourselves we must admit that our lives are all that really belong to us. So, it is how we use our lives that determines what kind of men (and women) we are. It is my deepest belief that only by giving of our lives do we find life. I am convinced that the truest act of courage, the strongest act of manliness, is to sacrifice ourselves for others in a totally nonviolent struggle for justice. To become a man (or woman) is to suffer for others. God help us to be men." - Cesar Chavez