

**4 Weeks 4 Stories 1 Request** The St. Anne's Stewardship Committee presents an article a week for the next few weeks in the Sunday bulletin. It is our hope that they become food for thought, reason for meditation, inspiration for action. The idea of Week One is to recognize the St. Anne's community as it is and aspires to be and to support it from a feeling of joy. In the story of Week Two, a parishioner is inspired by a sermon to spontaneously give to her church something close to her of great value. The story of Week Three teaches about living sacrificially. In a sense, that means reorienting one's compass to travel paths of compassion, caring, respect for other people as well as the earth itself and its creatures. A sacrificial life is one of service, dignity, peace, and justice for all. Finally, the lesson in Week Four is that it is liberating to give freely. Saint Ignatius prayed that he would lead that life; to give all back to God with the belief that life springs from living generously. Our one request is that you consider what these articles mean to you and on Consecration Sunday, pledge your support for St. Anne's ministries.



## *Giving: A multitude of reasons*

CATHY CLEMENT

Why do people give?" That's a question that was asked in many ways at last year's TENS conference. In considering why I give to my parish, I came up with the following:

No. 10: It's a habit. It's how I was raised. From my earliest days in Sunday school at Holy Faith in Inglewood, California, I remember folding little blue mite boxes for depositing my weekly offering every Lent.

No. 9: The Bible tells me so. From kindergarten in a little Christian School to my master's at Fuller Theological Seminary, I learned that the Bible teaches us to give back. Sharing my resources is clearly a biblical value.

No. 8: Giving to my parish is fun. Stewardship at All Saints always involves a party. As our rector said in a recent sermon, Jesus' parables often ended in a party. And as I understand it, heaven is going to be one mega-party.

No. 7: Giving to my parish feels good. I think Jesus was on to something when he said it is more blessed to give than to receive. And studies show that people who give live longer.

No. 6: I give to change the world. My parish is plugged in to where I can make the most difference in addressing the world's greatest needs. My parish stretches me.

No. 5: My parish is my community. I have made lifelong friends there; I was married there, and will be buried there. At my parish I'm part of something larger than myself.

No. 4: My parish is inclusive and not only with a capital "I." I was tenderly included when I was out of work, when I battled cancer, and when my husband died.

No. 3: I've been blessed and want to be a blessing to others. I am blessed to be able to continue to tithe my income in my retirement. My parish is a priority in my budget.

No. 2: I want to leave a legacy. I am indebted to visionary parishioners from whom I inherited the church I love. I owe the same to future generations.

No. 1: I give because I was asked. In turn I'd like to ask you. Won't you join me in pledging your financial support on this awesome journey of faith?



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### **For reflection ...**

- Why do you give?
- Is giving to your parish different than giving to other ministries? To other charities? How?