

**On behalf of the Stewardship Council I'd like to thank all of you who donate time and talent to our parish. Next weekend we'll show you a list of ways people assist us: ministers at mass, the members of our councils, people reaching out to the broader community, those who maintain our facilities, and those who provide religious education. A parish relies on the help of volunteers, and you all are among the best. You are talented, you know that God has given you gifts, you want to offer them back, you sense how you can make the parish better, and you give your time and talent cheerfully – often anonymously. I want to commend you for all that you do.**

**I also want to draw your attention to a few areas where we are still short-handed. Some of those are right here at mass – communion ministers, cantors and sacristans, for example. But we have a serious need for help with those who cannot come to church. Between Cameron and Maysville we have five nursing homes, two prisons, a hospital and several members who are homebound. Combined, our parishes have just over 300 households, but in any given week we bring communion to 50 or 60 people who cannot come to church. That's an unusually high number for a parish our size. We have 11 communion ministers taking turns at this, and I am grateful for every one of them. But because of the high need and the way people are distributed in those facilities, some of our ministers bring communion to over a dozen people every week. If we had 11 more ministers to the sick, the imprisoned and homebound, it would make the job easier for everyone.**

**And when you think of it, this is one of the most rewarding ministries a parish has to offer. You bring the body and blood of Christ to those who hunger for it but cannot come. You bring the most precious gift of our Church to those who receive it in gratitude. You make new friends, you learn more of the blessings God has given you, and you value human life.**

**The diocese is holding a training session for communion ministers here at St. Munchin on Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup>, no foolin'.**

**There are other ways to help us out. We've highlighted our greatest needs on a 5-page handout you'll have next weekend. At the end, we give you a place to sign up. You may also give us the names of people you think would be good at any ministry in the parish. Let us know who they are, and we'll contact them. You can fill out the sheet at church next week.**

**When Moses led the people into the desert, they had a hard time. They did not appreciate what God had done for them, so they complained and demanded better conditions. The refrain we sang for our responsorial psalm today was a piece of advice given to ancient Israel: "If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts." Let us not be ungrateful for what God has done, let us not harden our hearts. But let us share the love we have received with all we meet.**