

Thank you, thank you, thank you, everyone for the support you've given St. Regis over the last year. Look at what we've done. Our Stephen ministers help those who suffer the transitions of life. New members continue to join our community. Our early childhood education program, now fully licensed by the state of Missouri, provides quality care for the youngest in our community. Children in our religious education program grow together in love of the church and the sacraments. Our stewardship council conducted its first time and talent survey. The vocation committee has cultivated potential candidates for religious life. The parish council, after producing a five year plan, developed a cluster plan with two other parishes. Our athletic association provides quality sports opportunities for our kids. Our worship has expanded to liturgies for children and we have twelve kids to be baptized at this year's Easter vigil. Our kitchen has been spruced up and we have better lighting in classrooms. We've even opened up a website so you can dial up St. Regis from any computer terminal online in the world. We commit to four big areas of church life: worship, community, catechesis, and mission. At St. Regis you can pray, play, learn, and serve. You have made this possible through your contributions from your own personal treasure, and from the time, talent, and spirit you share here. The friendships we have forged are founded on faith, and God is blessing our friendship.

To be a giver is to go against the grain. Contributing is not like shopping. Shopping is about paying the least, but getting the most. Giving doesn't work that way. Contributing is about giving without expecting in return. Benefits come, but they're not the reason we give. We give for the same reason we love; it's a decision, it's a commitment; it says who we are and what we believe in. After all, giving happens to us every day: God has given us life, faith, a family, friends, a home, and a country we can be proud of. When we give freely, lovingly, and lavishly, we act like God. We become sacraments of God's love.

St. Regis has needs for next year. Our costs go up just like yours at home. We salary the people who put our parish plan into practice, our staff. They're worth more than can pay. At budget time our councils always ask for more. But we can't give more when our pledges remain the same and when cash flow becomes strained. There is a way we can improve every council's budget this coming year. With solid support for our annual appeal.

You've received a pledge card from us in the mail. Please, it's lent. As you make your sacrifices in preparation for Easter, evaluate the sacrifice you're making for our parish. When you increase your gift to the parish you enable us to carry on our mission. You also receive spiritual confidence. If charity is a priority in your budget, charity will be a priority in your life. If you haven't received a pledge card, give us a call; we'll get you one. If you've never filled one out, well, this is your big chance. Please, increase your pledge and bring your card next weekend. Give to St. Regis.