

# Stewardship

*God looks at the heart, not the hand—the giver, not the gift.*



November 2018

Dear Friend of Gesu,

Recently, at the parish office, one of our staff members brought their five year old grandson for a visit. He sat busily on the floor, in her office, constructing a paper snowflake. He deliberated over which color of crayon to use and the amount of cuts on the paper. After he was satisfied with his creation, he joyfully presented it to me. Before the day was over, I had a “blizzard” of snowflakes displayed in my office! I found myself smiling over these paper gifts. The snowflakes were not responsible for my smile. It was the heart of the giver. His sincerity of effort was the true gift.

This is how God sees our gifts! When we share what we have, our time, our talents, our treasure, with sincerity and love, God receives them, like the snowflakes, with loving delight. He knows the sweetest gifts are those that come from a place of love and not from a place of duty.

Our theme for Gesu’s Annual Pledge Appeal, **“God looks at the heart, not the hand - the giver, not the gift,”** affirms the importance of giving out of gratitude and compassion. What we do, inspired by love, such as: praying for others, taking time to listen, being a chauffeur, tutoring, grandchild sitting, making a meal, paying it forward, seeing our work as a vocation, sharing our financial resources, and on and on, causes God to delight in us! He receives these gifts and generously multiplies them. Not only do the people we serve benefit from them but we do as well. Following is a small sampling of the impact gifts given from the heart have had at Gesu in 2018:

- ✠ 30 faithful volunteers and 110 donors participated in our two successful annual Gesu Blood Drives
- ✠ 184 devoted volunteers helped with our beautiful and inspirational liturgies
- ✠ Donations made it possible to serve over 1,860 guests at the Saturday Meal program
- ✠ Envelope giving of \$60,971 paid for heat, a/c and lights for the church and parish offices
- ✠ Staff ministered to 42 couples for preparation and celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony
- ✠ Priests provided 832 opportunities to go to Mass and 312 opportunities for Reconciliation

Financial resources are an important element for sustaining our ministries. Your monetary donation is vital to their continuation. I humbly ask you to please prayerfully discern your response to this year’s pledge appeal. Bless you!

With heartfelt gratitude,

*Fr. Jim Flaherty, S.J.*  
Pastor