

STEWARDSHIP

The 2010 Saint Francis of Assisi Pledge Program – 7 and 8 Nov 09

The Sunday Offering and other monetary contributions to the Church are referred to as Tithing. The whole belief that underlies Tithing is that God is the Giver of every gift we have in life--our life itself, our faith in Him, our family and friends and loved ones, our health, our jobs, our personalities, the different gifts and talents that each one of us have--**all of these** are God's gifts to us. Tithing is About Giving God the First Fruits.

So naturally, we make a **return** to God for all the wonderful gifts He has given us. This return is called our "tithe." A tithe is 10% of our income. The suggested guideline is 5% to the parish, 1% to the Diocesan charities and appeals that take place during throughout the year, and 4% to other personal needs and charities that are close to your heart.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the 2010 St. Francis of Assisi Annual Pledge Program?

- The Annual Pledge Program is a way for you to make a yearly commitment to St. Francis as stewards of the astounding variety of programs, ministries and outreach that St. Francis Catholic Church community provides.
- Pledges and donations to the Pledge Program are **extremely important** as they provide critical parish operating funds and greatly assist our dedicated and hardworking finance committee with the important process of **current** fund allocations as well as the **budget planning process** for the upcoming year and beyond.
- The current Parish fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. The **2010 Parish Pledge Program** will begin in the fall of 2009 and will run through the end of the calendar year to December 31, 2010. Parishioners, friends and guests may pledge or donate during this time. Everyone is encouraged to participate with a planned, proportionate, and sacrificial commitment to support our parish community.

Why do we have a Parish Pledge Program?

- Simply put, our St. Francis of Parish, with its wonderful ministries, services, facilities and liturgical space, managed by a dedicated but small pastoral and professional staff for our own Catholic community, requires financial support to operate.
- **Our Pledge Program is one of the cornerstones of Stewardship at St. Francis. Our parishioners, friends and guests have been and continue to be our sole supporters. Your pledge to the Parish Operating Fund is an investment in our Parish life together and is critical to help secure our present and future. As an act of stewardship, it is a way to express thanks to God for the gifts each of us has received.**

What does my weekly ministry contribution assist with during that week at St. Francis?

- **Liturgies** supporting Mass, Baptisms, Funerals, and Weddings
- **Faith Formation** for **2000+** children and adults from RCIA to Bible Study in both English and Spanish
- **Outreach** in many ways (ministry to the sick, etc.) within our parish boundary, north of Celina and south to Rt. 121
- **Community Life** programs promoting active Christian relationships and fellowship within the community
- **Parish Administration** including salaries, publications, utilities, and facility maintenance

What is the current financial state of the Parish?

- Recent weekly offerings, as reported each week in the bulletin, are averaging almost \$3,000 below budget requirements. We are striving to remedy this shortfall, but we need everyone's participation in the pledge program to meet parish operational needs.
- Looking ahead in these challenging economic times, we will continue careful management of our resources, outreach and strong stewardship efforts to enable our on-going ministry to the community.

How can you help?

- **Make a Stewardship pledge**, based on your ability, to the 2010 Parish Pledge Program. The pledge cards have a giving guideline grid, based on percentages of annual incomes, which can help you as you make this decision.
- **How much you pledge or give is for each person to decide.** Consider your commitment and prayerfully discern your opportunity to share.
- We are suggesting that each individual, couple or family **pledge a minimum of 5% of their income.** If that goal is impossible at this time, please give what you can.
- **Pledge cards are available on tables in the Narthex, in the Parish office or by calling the Parish office at 972-712-2645—we will mail one to you.**

Can I still pledge and donate weekly or on another schedule?

Absolutely! There are a number of different ways you can fulfill your pledge through regular donations. First, fill out a pledge card and drop it in the collection plate or mail it in to the parish office.

- **Mailing in a Check** – You can do this on your own financial schedule. Many of our parish supporters choose to pay their pledge one-time in full, quarterly, or monthly donations.
- **Electronic Bill Payment** – If your bank offers electronic bill payment services, ask if you can set up an automatic payment to St. Francis. Call the parish office and we can help explain the general process. (Each bank may have a slightly different approach.)
- **Payroll Deduction** – Your employer may allow charitable deductions by payroll and/or have a matching gift program. Ask your employer/human resource department for more details.
- **Weekly Envelopes** – Cash or checks can be inserted in weekly envelopes and dropped in the collection baskets. Please call the parish office if you would like to receive envelopes. *(Please note that loose cash put in the collection cannot be tracked to individual donors. Please use envelopes if you wish to fulfill your pledge in cash and receive proper credit.)*

What types of Offertory collections and donation programs are there at St. Francis?

- **Weekly Offertory Collections** – These donations are designated for the Parish operating expenses and are not used for any other purpose outside the parish.
- **Special Collections** – These collections support the work of the larger church in the Diocese, across the United States and the world. Each collection has a specific purpose and the monies go directly for that intent. The special collections that are taken up at St. Francis of Assisi are announced throughout the year.

How can I register to be a Member of the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Community?

- *Everyone is welcome!* Simply fill out the appropriate registration cards in the Narthex or come by the parish office.
- You may drop the registration cards off in the collection baskets, at the parish office, or by mailing it in to the St. Francis of Assisi Office, 8000 Eldorado Parkway, Frisco, TX 75034.