



# ST. EDWARD CATHOLIC CHURCH

19000 Pines Boulevard Pembroke Pines, FL 33029 Phone (954) 436-7944 www.stedward.net

## A *musings* on Parish Stewardship by Rev. John Peloso

I am sure everyone knows what the word “musing” means. A musing is the action of reflective, or deep thought. When I was thinking, *musings*, on the concept of Parish Stewardship, my immediate thought was most people do not know about the parish church or the Universal Church. Let me start with a little anecdote or short story.

Many years ago, when I was a boy 8 years old in 1963, I was an altar boy in Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic Church. The Catholic Church was still in Pre-Vatican II era, so there was no such thing as an altar girl or altar server as a generic term. Every morning, I walked, usually with my twin brother Michael, to the parish church to serve at the 6:30 a.m. morning mass. Rain or shine, winter, or summer, all types of South Florida weather, my brother and myself sat on a little doorstep outside the church sacristy door, that only had a little 8 inch overhang for rain pouring off the roof of the church, waiting for the priest to celebrate mass. So, I did this roughly for 5 years and I remember telling myself, “when I’m an adult I’m never going to ever do this again, never going to church again!”

So... here I am! writing about serving our parish St. Edward Catholic Church. “Stewardship” is exactly that, “serving” God by serving my parish. There are many ways to serve God, to serve my parish. Getting back to my original musing; which reflected on the many things people do not know about parish church, in general, and this lack of knowledge can hinder or prevent them from serving, or giving to their own parish church.

The following facts should clear up any false assumptions many people have: # 1, the Church Universal/Catholic is not rich, nor is St. Edward rich!; and # 2, the church, Catholic Church is or has basically two general areas of interest in faith: Theology and Ecclesiology. These are the essential building foundations of the church universally and in the local parish church. These 2 foundations are “distinct” but not separate! Theology is the study of God and how God is, exists, and relates to us, His people, His creation. This is a truth that exists, and never changes, God is always the same, truth eternal omniscient God. Ecclesiology means “things of the church”, everything from A to Z church related, from altar to candles, books, clergy, liturgical practices, buildings, landscaping, maintenance, music, A/C units and, yes, taxes, church state and local taxes, money, finance, bills, mortgages. The cost of maintaining St. Edward Parish all inclusive, last year, was \$1.4 million dollars! Surprisingly!?! We are blessed to have some wonderfully generous individuals and families at St. Edward who carry the burden both in active service and financially, however, the average weekly contribution is \$12.00, with many people give nothing financially! This, of course, before the COVID-19 pandemic.

St. Paul in his letters said “each of us has something to offer, let them give generously” (Roman 12:6-8) and of course Jesus (Mark 12:41-44 and Luke 21:1-4) tells the story of the poor widow’s offering, the “mite,” the smallest of all the roman coins, gave the most. Justin Cardinal Rigali has stated “the obligation of giving is for both rich and the poor” this confers on the poor an equal dignity with those who are well off. These are the facts that one may not have known. Even Jesus preached on the aspect, virtue, of giving financially to the church. In His Gospels (Mathew 22:21) “render to God”, what is God’s and (Mathew 12:24-27) Jesus tells Peter to take the coin from the fish they caught, give it to pay the tax! ... why? Because it was their civil duty to the temple and state. The point was/is “God has plenty of resources” “God will supply” all our needs (Philippians 4:19) therefore do not be anxious (Mathew 6:31-33).

I hope you enjoy this *musings*, and most of all I pray and hope this will bless you and your family and bring light and peace to you.

With love, and gratitude, sincerely,

Rev. John Peloso - Pastor