



Oh, We Did It

True leaders
Are hardly known to their followers.
Next after them are the leaders
The people know and admire:
After them, those they fear;
After them, those they despise.

To give no trust
is to get no trust.

When the work's done right,
With no fuss or boasting, ordinary people say,
"Oh, we did it"

Lao-Tzu
(Sixth Century B. C.)

A Letter from Your Campaign Leader



When the work's done right, with no fuss or boasting, ordinary people say oh, we did it. Often you hear in a conversation after Mass or during a meeting "Oh I don't know what it is but something just draws me to St. Mary's." Is it the structure or the people? The physical plant, the church and parish house (offices), the ministry building and the school are they the "We" of the above poem?

The "we" are all the people who over the years that have contributed to the spirit that we call St. Mary's Catholic Parish of New Albany every parishioner. As you peruse the church bulletin you notice that

there is a prayer line, a holy hour, youth ministry parking cars for Harvest Homecoming, adult religious education, basketball sign up-time, men's bible study, catholic cemeteries, extended holy hour, woman's bible study, sewing ladies, Martha & Mary's, rosary and prayers for vocations, Board of Education, Legion of Mary. During our recent Growing Stewarts campaign we noted that we had over 40 ministries or committees serving in the parish.

The people are the Blue Ribbon School, the new Pre School and the Hispanic Ministry. If you notice you will see Sally plant flowers and her husband trim some bushes so the Pre School looks a little more inviting and by the way who trims those bushes in front of the church? You will notice John spending his afternoons helping change the light bulbs before the school term opens, or a group of the men from the parish spend a few Saturdays helping spruce up the school before the new year begins and who coaches those sports teams. Who cleans the church? I wonder some Sunday's who brought the flowers that decorate the altar. Who takes care of the Catholic Cemeteries?

The October Newsletter lists eighteen new members, three new baptisms and nine marriages taking place recently at St Mary's.

What does this have to do with Stewardship? If the church exterior gets painted, if a new roof gets put on the school and, if, we make improvement in the ministry building so the basement is hospitable and useful to our ministries:

*When the work's done right,
With no fuss or boasting, ordinary people say,
"Oh, we did it"*

You get the point "True Leaders" are the "We" of this parish each and every parishioner of St Mary's Catholic Parish.

*Joe Lobred
Campaign Follow Up Leader*

Legacy for our Mission
For our children and our future
Capital Campaign

EXperience Calling

1 Samuel 3:1-11

“Speak Lord, for your servant is listening” (1 Samuel 3:10)

In the time of Samuel, the bible says, “the word of the Lord was rare in those days, and visions were not widespread.” It is easy for people to feel the same way today. Who has heard God call their name? Who has heard God speak a word to them? And what great, Godly vision drives your life?

Most people seem to want to think that the word of the Lord is rare, that the word of the Lord only comes to people like the pastors who are somehow “specially” called. Most people seem to want to think that God has no word, no calling, no vision for them.

Maybe, like the boy Samuel, we simply are not listening well. We hear something calling our name and tugging at our heart, and assume that something is just Pastor Eli making a fuss again. Perhaps we need to learn to listen better for a word from God. Perhaps it is not a word from God that is rare, but faithful listening from those who would serve God that is so rare.

Every Christian has a calling. In fact, every Christian has several callings -- as well as the God-given gifts, graces, and blessings to respond to those callings.

Every Christian is called to be a faithful steward of the talents and time and resources God has blessed them with. Being a faithful steward is a personal calling - a word from the Lord. It is a calling that comes with your name attached to it. It is a calling that only you can make a decision about. You can ignore that calling completely. You can brush off that calling by responding only in minimal ways. Or, recognizing God’s claim over your life, you can wake up and listen for God’s own voice. There is a word from the Lord for you in this campaign. There is a God-given vision for your church in this campaign. “Speak to me Lord. I am your servant. I am listening to hear from You.”

Prayer: Lord, teach me not only to say Samuel’s prayer, “Speak, for your servant is listening,” but to actually listen for Your word, Lord, and to do Your word.

Action Item: Are you listening for God’s word? List where you hear God’s word (in scripture, in worship, in prayer, in other faithful people, etc). In your daily prayer time and your journaling, make note of the ways that God is speaking to you.

