



November 2021

*What the Lord requires of you:  
Only to do justice and to love  
goodness, and to walk humbly  
with your God. - Micah 6:8*

Dear Friends of Saint Olaf,

**Pray \* Serve \* Share**

**We are called to serve:  
2022 Annual Stewardship Renewal**

One Sunday afternoon before the 4:00 pm Mass, I opened the outside doors of the Church to let people know we were open. A gentleman was walking by and said, "Hey Father, thanks for opening the doors to everyone. I cannot stop today, but I'll be back another day." I smiled and thought to myself, "I'll keep fighting to keep our doors open!" Living our mission, "*Serving as a living sign of Christ's saving presence in the heart of the city,*" is a great joy! On my walks through downtown and through our hallways, I have met many great people. A gentleman said to me the other night, "Can I ask you a question?" I said, "Sure." He replied, "Why are you out here walking incognito? Aren't you the pastor at the Church?" I said, "I am and I am on my nightly walk. I live right here in the Church." "No way," he exclaimed, "I cannot believe that." I explained to him that there are living quarters for the priests and we stay right here." "So, you own the building?" he asked. I laughed and said, "No, I don't own the building but the Archdiocese does. I am assigned here by the Archdiocese to work here for a few years." "How many?" he asked. I responded, "Four, six, or maybe twelve years." He replied, "Bro, I hope it is for a long time." My heart was warmed.

Our doors have stayed open through many challenges these past few years. It has not been easy, being pressured by the Archdiocese, our insurance company, and by a few downtown organizations to limit or shutter. Living right here in the "Heart of the City," has shown me the importance of our presence. Many people think we close our doors at night and everyone leaves. By living here, I have experienced many different situations that has broadened my outlook and renewed my faith in humanity. Suffering exists and compassion is needed. Prayer most importantly keeps the Holy Spirit present and my nightly rosary walk keeps the love of Jesus Christ present.

Our doors have stayed open because of you! Your prayers, your generous service, the gifts you shared allowed us to *do justice, to love goodness, and to walk humbly with God.* Today, I am writing to you to answer the call to serve and support Saint Olaf by pledging for the year 2022. Your individual gifts, given in love provide Jesus' presence to so many.

One of the greatest gifts of the last year was when we were able to open wide the doors and celebrate daily and weekend Masses in person as well as live stream those same Masses six times each week for those who were unable to celebrate the Eucharist in person. Step by step, we are opening back up Saint Olaf. First with the Sacraments, then our Samaritan Ministry, and next our other programs and ministries are returning as they are able.

We gathered carefully to celebrate our 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with food, music, and most importantly you, our community. We continue to open up to rebuild community and soon hope to have donuts and coffee along with the welcomed conversation in Forliti Gathering Room after Mass.

We have managed thus far into the pandemic with you, our Parishioners, Associate Parishioners, and faithful contributors by our side. With your gifts of support, we ended up the Fiscal Year ahead of our cautious budget. Your faithful support last year helped us to manage without PPP loans or dipping into savings. We budgeted conservatively again this year, but have plans to re-engage in our mission in the heart of the city, add to our staff with talented individuals, and continue our call to serve. Your pledging helps us plan for our future and maintain a working budget. I thank you for your ongoing generosity and trust.

Last year, Saint Olaf stood alone as an “open” church in the heart of the city, providing a sanctuary for those who needed us. This next year we plan to continue filling that need, with your help. The gifts you share today and tomorrow will have similar impacts on future parishioners, associate parishioners, and visitors to Saint Olaf as we continue to pray, serve, and share in the heart of the city.

Please answer the call to serve through your pledge/gift to Saint Olaf and our Annual Stewardship Renewal for 2022. I thank you in advance for your generosity!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin T Kenney". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

Fr. Kevin Kenney – Pastor

*P.S.* Share your gratitude, trust, and joy and support the mission and ministries of Saint Olaf by returning your completed Stewardship Intention Card as soon as possible.