

Stewardship Talk for Our Little Church

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Hello everyone!

Twenty-eight years ago, I encountered many blessings: Married a very happy, smart and musical man; moved to a new town, Wethersfield, and found in town, a church to start a new life; Trinity. Since then we have grown together, in good and sensitive times.

I have grown, still growing stronger in myself, because I am a very shy person you know. But I have found strength when learning more and more about our Lord and His love for all of us and everything in this universe. The Bible says that He made us in His own image; that's why we are unique. The Bible says that He knew us and loved us first. I feel His love and know about His love.... I want to love Him back! How do I love Him back? I believe Bible Study and Morning Prayer help me to keep connected with His word and keep me hungry to learn more on my own through prayer and supplication. I am learning powerful stuff here. I am learning about the tools, God, our Lord, gives us in the Bible to get through our daily life that is so full of interruptions that we allow in our lives. Right now, I am trying to make one of those a great good interruption titled "My solitary time with God." God is telling me to stop trying to be in control of everything. He is in control, not me! To take a breath and feel Him and know that He is there for me that am not alone. "Be still and know that I AM GOD." But I have to practice this more to get to this point, because I keep forgetting and go back to the old me, thinking I have to find answers to all questions that I create in my mind. I won't stop trying this new way of being in solitude with Him. I am very proud of this this little church of mine whose sons and daughters are so eager and dedicated in helping others in need. Being with our sisters and brothers from Trinity at the House of the Good Shepherd in Hartford every other Tuesday showed me, or exposed me first hand, to the needy brothers

and sisters near our town. It was so gratifying making a little free lunch of soup and bread, while they also could take any clothing, shoes, etc., they needed from the many piles of free clothes on tables. Of course, these items were slightly used and donated and brought by so many other brothers and sisters from Good Shepherd, our own Trinity Parish and other donors, and then organized in the "Parish Room." Another favorite part of this particular "other Tuesday" was: after our needy brothers and sisters picked their great find of that day and had their light lunch, we would be part of church service with Eucharist and Gospel an all. Our needy brothers and sisters would happily and lively take part in this service and contribute with their responses to questions by the celebrant. I saw the colors of the heavenly rainbow those Tuesdays! I saw brothers and sisters of all skin colors and different cultures and languages. These brothers and sisters that I call "needy" may be materially poor but not in spirit. They looked happy on this Tuesday! I experienced more stuff on this Tuesday, I saw brothers and sisters from our church engaging and talking to our needy friends trying to give them a good word of comfort, making them feel good, putting a smile on their faces. Or could it have been the other way around? Hopefully, not just for that day, they might remember those words of comfort in moments of need some other time in their lives, hopefully! But there's more to this story on this same "other Tuesday". In the morning, my sisters from Trinity Parrish would arrive at Good Shepherd at different times, to start making this "divine" soup. We would all bring from our homes different "stones," ingredients to make the soup. We would see red beans, black beans, garbanzo beans, tomatoes fresh, and canned, cabbage, celery, rice, pastas, bread, all kinds of chips and sometimes even pastries. We were so lucky that volunteer brothers from our Trinity Church that cooked dinner for the needy at the Christ Cathedral would save the ham bones for us to make our soup tastier; that was so cool! You had to be there to see Trinity Parrish sisters showing their skills in shredding, slicing,

cutting dividing all foods to make this soup at the same time conversing about our lives and our families and how blessed we were. The stones brought from our cupboards were like the stones in the story of the beggars who started his soup with only boiling water and stones and then asked, offhandedly, the towns people “This soup could go well with some carrots and celery would make it tastier too.” Being part of this “every other Tuesday” meant a lot to me, it gave me great personal joy and this is only one of the many, many ways our little Trinity Parish reaches out to our neighbors.

What touches your heart about this little church of OURS? Is there a hidden talent that you want to share with our church that might help this little church to keep going forward to keep getting stronger and stronger in the love for God for all? Remember the beggar and his soup of stones? Well, in reality we are the stones; we are the secret ingredients; we are even the hambones in this wonderful soup. Trinity has been going through many changes, yet we are still here because of YOUR devotion of time in helping in so many ways and in different levels. We have numerous Outreach Programs in place and more in planning stages. It is almost unbelievable the difference we are making already at this present time in the lives of so many neighbors, brothers, sisters. These are great changes that are possible because YOU, YOU realize the time to make a difference in our Christian lives is NOW because yesterday is past, and we don’t know about tomorrow but we are here NOW and TOGETHER with God’s help everything is possible!

Thank you, Lord, thank you to you for letting me be part of this great house of God!