



# ST. ANTHONY of PADUA

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THE LORD HAS MADE; LET US  
REJOICE IN IT AND BE GLAD"

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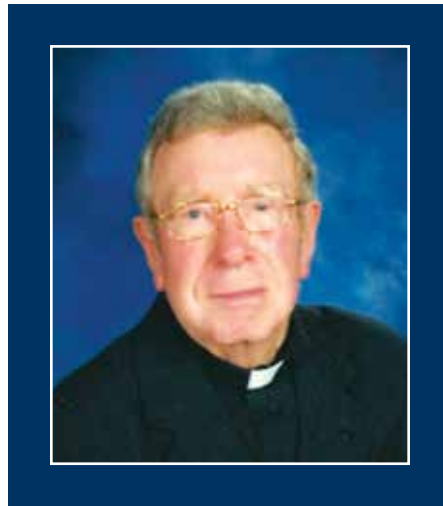
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## Remembering Fr. Don Knuffman

He was a son and a brother. He was a student. He was a cousin, brother-in-law, and uncle. He was a seminarian. But to most of us at St. Dominic, St. Anthony, and various parishes throughout our diocese, he was best known simply as *Father*. It was a comfortable title for him, because while some people struggle while discerning a religious vocation, the priesthood was where Fr. Don always seemed to be headed.

"When I was in grade school, my brother was in the high school next door and sometimes he would meet me on the playground and give me a dime for an ice cream," says Marvin Knuffman, of his brother, Fr. Don, who passed away in July. "I always remember that – a dime so I could buy an ice cream. But that's how he was. He was thoughtful and had a generous heart – in many ways those were the seeds of his vocation."

Indeed, Marvin says that those seeds were planted early. In a family that didn't have much materially – gifts for Christmases and birthdays were neither big nor extravagant – they had a great deal of love, respect, and appreciation for one another. Their mother was the spiritual leader who



would sit down in the evenings and go over the *Catechism*, and Marvin says that as children they would play Mass with Fr. Don playing the priest while Marvin and their sister, Joan, acted as servers. Even the farm where they grew up played a role in Father's vocation.

"Farming is a hopeful venture," Marvin says. "You plant seeds, you water crops, you raise stock, you wait for growth. In many ways, faith is like that, too."

As the land gives back its bounty so, too, did Fr. Don give back by sharing all that he was as God's servant. When he was discerning the priesthood, everyone in his family was not only overjoyed, but

considered it an honor and a privilege. There would be priest in the family, and after attending one year at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield, Ill., and seven years at St. John's Seminary in Little Rock, Ark., a priest for our diocese. But as much as parishioners came to know him as Fr. Don, he was much more than a priest to his family.

"Of course, he was always my brother first," Marvin says. "We would joke, laugh and kid each other. But as a priest, he was such a blessing to our family. When he would visit,

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# Remembering Fr. Don Knuffman *continued from front cover*

*“The night before I had to speak at his memorial Mass, I came across the following passage – ‘Most of the time holiness is doing ordinary things of everyday life really well.’ And that was my brother. What you saw is what you got – he was such a genuine person. He gave me the greatest faith in the Holy Spirit because he was such a wonderful example of the Holy Spirit being active in the world today.” – Marvin Knuffman, Fr. Don’s brother*

everyone was excited – really, a peace would come over the house whenever he stayed with us. He married our children, baptized our grandchildren. When he was at St. Dominic’s, sometimes I would come home from work and find him on the swing in the backyard with our dog, Patches.”

Sadly, when Fr. Don passed away this past July just one year after celebrating his 50th jubilee, he left an empty space in the hearts of family, friends, and parishioners. And he is truly missed.

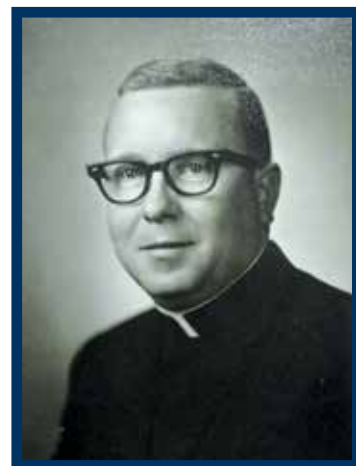
“The night before I had to speak at his memorial Mass, I came across the following passage – ‘Most of the time holiness is doing ordinary things of everyday life really well,’” Marvin says. “And that was my brother. What you saw is what you got – he was such a genuine person. He gave me the greatest faith in the Holy Spirit because he was such a wonderful example of the Holy Spirit being active in the world today.”

Ultimately, a lot happens in the life of a parish. Parishioners come and go. Children grow up, marry, and have children who then create their own memories of parish picnics, breakfasts with Santa, and crowded Christmas Eve Masses. In the life of a parish, ministries are introduced, building funds are launched, and the rhythm of the liturgical seasons are punctuated with baptisms, weddings, funerals, and ordinations. Yes, a lot happens in the life of a parish – including all those times when we have to say goodbye.

A long time ago Fr. Don’s mother offered him the advice of how to be a good priest – “Love the children,” she said. “And visit the sick.”

And as our Father, he did all that.

And so much more.



# ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTORAL ADMINISTRATOR



## Stewardship: “This Is the Day the Lord Has Made; Let Us Rejoice in It and Be Glad”

Dear Parishioners,

Sometimes, we spend much time looking at, analyzing and speaking about the meaning of various passages and readings from Holy Scripture. Of course, we need to do that – it is important to our spiritual well-being, and to have a complete understanding of the messages revealed to us in the Word of God. As you are aware, most weeks we have four readings as part of our Liturgy of the Word – a First Reading, then a Responsorial Psalm, a Second Reading, and the Holy Gospel.

The one reading that sometimes is ignored is that Psalm. Yet, there are truths and wisdom in the Psalms that are worthy of our comments and our recognition. Psalm 24 (a song of David) strikes me in particular as one rich in meaning for us, especially from the perspective of stewardship. It opens, “The earth is the Lord’s and all it holds, the world and those who dwell in it.” For me, that says everything we believe and provides us with all the motivation we need to pursue stewardship as a way of life.

Let us consider how profound that statement – “The earth is the Lord’s and all it holds” – really is. If we do

embrace stewardship as a way of life, we admit and accept that everything comes from God and everything is God’s. Stewardship is not complicated, although we try to make everything complex and complicated, it seems. It is, as stated, merely the realization that our very existence, our lives, our goods all come from and in finality belong to God. We are the stewards of all of this. If we do accept that and try to live that way, we then tend to administer well God’s gifts on behalf of God. That is all stewardship is.

At the heart of all of this is our relationship with the Lord. We can also say that stewardship is all about getting that relationship right. Jesus certainly makes reference to stewards and stewardship in the Gospels. The Gospels were all written in Greek, and the English words for “steward” and “stewardship” are translations from a Greek word that means “to administer what belongs to someone else.”

That is what we do in this life. We receive gifts – we are granted the stewardship of time, talent and treasure from God. But all of this and all we may be are only gifts. Our use of them to serve one another and all those around us in our community, our parish and the Church Universal is the measure of our stewardship.

In the northern hemisphere, autumn begins on Thursday, Sept. 22. This time of year in the Church is when everything seems to begin or resume. There is another wonderful Psalm that states, “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad” (Psalm 118:24). Let us do that together, and let us be good stewards together.

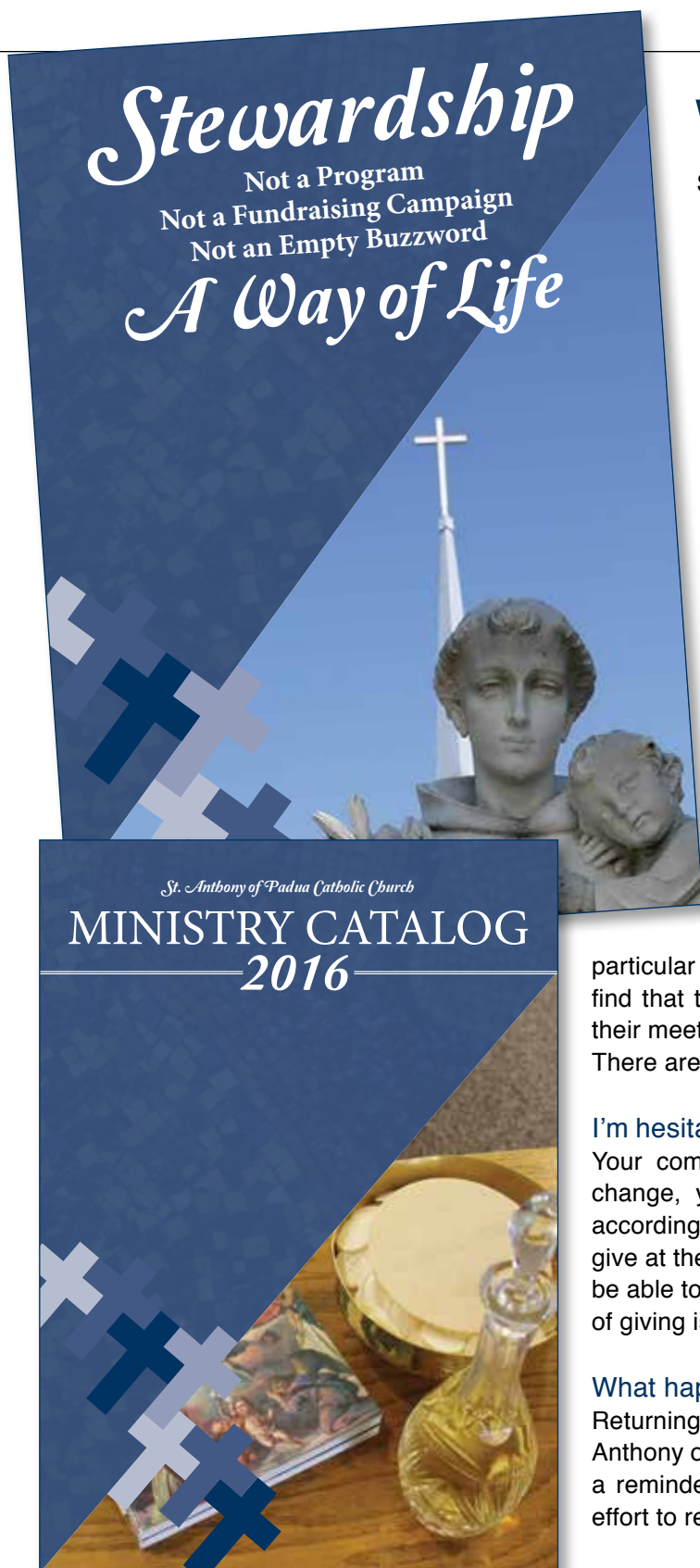
Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Tom Donovan  
Pastoral Administrator





# Basic Questions About Our Stewardship Renewal



## What is a Stewardship Renewal?

This isn't a parish fundraiser – far from it. Our annual Stewardship Renewal is the time when we ask each other to re-prioritize the way we use God's gifts in the Church. It is the time we write down how we will support St. Anthony of Padua.

## Why should I fill out a commitment card?

Your Commitment Card allows you to make commitments to prayer, parish ministries, and offertory giving, or what we at St. Anthony of Padua call "time, talent, and treasure." There's a two-fold reason to complete your card. First, it is an excellent opportunity to move forward spiritually and personally. Second, when you fill out a card, our parish is much better able to manage our many volunteers and make budgeting decisions.

## How many parish ministries are there at St. Anthony of Padua?

"Ministry" is a general term for any parish group, organization, or regular activity. There are dozens of ministries in our parish. You can sign up for certain ministries, or re-commit yourself if you're already involved.

## What if I sign up for a ministry, but later find I'm not very interested?

You are not making a solemn promise to participate in a particular ministry when you mark it on your commitment card. If you find that the parish group is different than you thought, or simply that their meeting time doesn't fit your schedule, you can change your mind. There are plenty of other ministries to consider.

## I'm hesitant to make a firm financial pledge. What if I lose my job?

Your commitment card isn't a legal contract. If your circumstances change, your gift will change. In Scripture, we are asked to "give according to our means." So, if you lose your job, you may be unable to give at the level you pledged. Likewise, if you get a promotion, you may be able to give more. That is why at St. Anthony of Padua, our standard of giving is based upon a percentage of income.

## What happens if I don't fill out a commitment card?

Returning a card is an important part of being an active member of St. Anthony of Padua. If for some reason you lose your card, we'll send you a reminder letter with an extra commitment card. Please make every effort to return it!

# ST. ANTHONY of PADUA



## Time, Talent & Treasure

### Stewardship of Time

Our definition of Stewardship of Time: Using my time on earth wisely; making time for personal prayer, family prayer, and quality time with friends and loved ones.

The bottom line about prayer: Without prayer, we cannot thrive spiritually. As Catholic Christians, it is a necessity to spend time each day speaking to God. This includes reading Scripture and saying prayers such as the Our Father and Hail Mary, but even more importantly, it should include a heart-to-heart conversation with Jesus. He wants us to bring him all our fears, longings, needs, and desires.

What kind of Time commitments should I make? Your commitment card lists several suggestions for how to spend time with God in prayer. Review your current prayer life and take a step forward. For instance, start having daily prayers with your children or spouse. Commit to praying the rosary on the way to work or reading scripture before bed each night.

### Stewardship of Talent

Our definition of Stewardship of Talent: Using my God-given abilities to strengthen the Church and help others, especially through parish ministries and activities.

The bottom line about parish ministry: No Catholic Christian exists in a vacuum. Scripture makes it clear that we must function within the wider faith community, putting our gifts in the service of others. It's not enough to go to Sunday Mass; we need to be involved in parish life and ministry.

What kind of Talent commitments should I make? If you're not involved in anything in our parish, now is the perfect opportunity to take a step forward. Check out our commitment card for a list of ministries. If you're already involved, re-commit yourself to the important work you do. And if you feel God is calling you forward – sign up for something new!

### Stewardship of Treasure

Our definition of Stewardship of Treasure: The wise and just management of my financial resources; giving a proportionate amount of my income to the parish.

The bottom line about financial support: We need to take seriously the Biblical concept of the tithe, and start giving based on a percentage of income. It's our responsibility to support the Church with our personal involvement and our financial support.

What kind of Treasure commitments should I make? Our goal at St. Anthony of Padua is to give five percent of income to the offertory. Grab a calculator and figure out your target gift based on your total household income. Then make a plan for increasing your gift incrementally to reach five percent. During our Stewardship Renewal, choose a weekly or monthly gift to the parish, and be faithful to it for the next year.

*Please bring your  
Commitment  
Card to Mass  
on Commitment  
Sunday,  
September 17-18.  
How will you use  
your time, talent  
and treasure in  
our parish?*

*Stewardship*  
Not a Program  
Not a Fundraising Campaign  
Not an Empty Buzzword  
*A Way of Life*

**St. Anthony of Padua  
Catholic Church**

**2016 COMMITMENT CARD**

First & Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (Important) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please bring this card to Mass on **September 17/18**, or mail using the envelope provided. Thanks and God bless you!

# Setting an Example of Stewardship for Our Children

**A**s we strive to live as grateful stewards, we must remember that each of us has a responsibility to help our youngest parishioners learn what it means to live as a disciple of Christ. Jesus Himself told the disciples, “Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these” (Mt 19:14). Christ wants children to grow closer to Him and to become His disciples, and parents are responsible for helping to lead their children to this end. The Rite of Baptism reminds us that parents are “the first teachers of their child in the ways of faith.”

An important part of faith involves living a life of stewardship, as the proper response of a Christian disciple. So, it follows that parents bear a great responsibility that comes from Christ Himself to raise their children as grateful stewards. However, it may already be difficult for adults to grasp the concept of stewardship and put it into practice in their own lives. How can parents teach their children to do the same?

First and foremost, parents can teach stewardship by setting a good example. Indeed, the example of our lives is so powerful that it can and should be a witness to the Gospel. As parents live the life of stewardship, their children will see the beauty in the stewardship way of life, and they are bound to follow suit. If parents live in thanksgiving to God for all He has given them, their children will grow to see that all we have is a gift from God. And when parents offer gratitude to God, it will surely impact their children.

Eight-year-old Suzie has watched her dad serve Communion at Sunday Masses throughout her young life.

When asked why she thinks he does this, she responds, “We need to help the priest.”

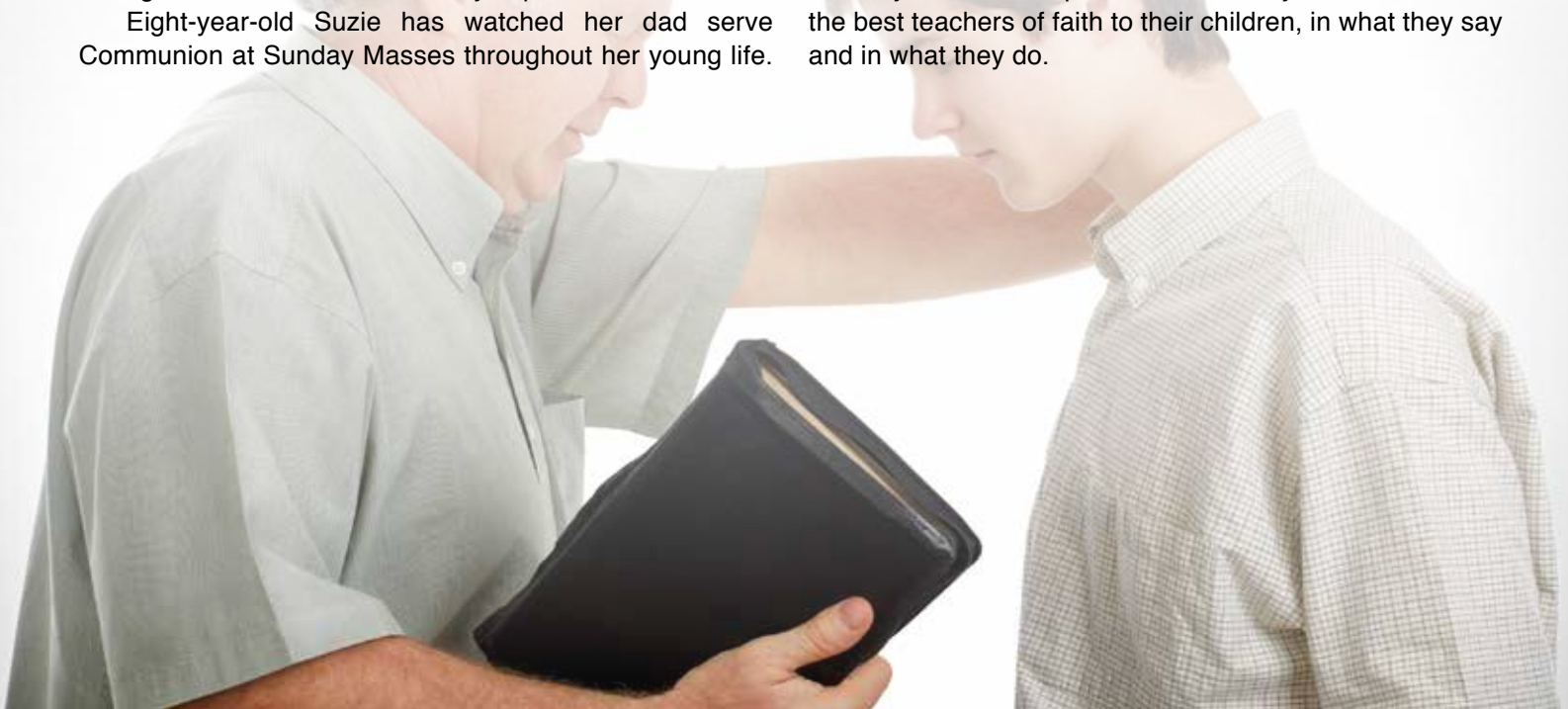
Meanwhile, her older sister, Jane, responds to the same question by explaining, “We need to serve God. He does so much for us. We should appreciate it and give back to Him.”

It is clear that by witnessing their dad’s example, the girls are beginning to understand – each in her own way – that the life of a Christian disciple involves selfless service in gratitude to God. However, it is not just their father’s example that has helped them develop this understanding. Both their father and their mother emphasize stewardship as a family practice. They spend time in family prayer, serve at the soup kitchen together, bring up the offertory as a family, and participate in other acts of service. Such involved participation in the faithful life allows the girls to bear witness to the power of serving others in thanksgiving, even at their young ages.

“We need to help other people,” Suzie says. “Jesus wants us to put other people first, and if we want to listen to Him, we need to serve others.”

As Suzie’s statement demonstrates, the stewardship way of life is not only understood or lived out by adults – Jesus wants children to be His disciples, as well. So, it is essential that parents help their children develop a true understanding of stewardship, and encourage its practice through the example of an active faith life.

May all Christian parents be not only the first, but also the best teachers of faith to their children, in what they say and in what they do.





# ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA



## Teaching Students Stewardship and Community Life at a Young Age *The Buddy Program*

As the popular saying goes, it takes a village to raise a child. With today's increasingly secular culture, now more than ever, parents rely upon the support of their faith and school communities in the raising of their children. While there are many benefits to Catholic education, the Buddy Program at St. Dominic's truly embodies the spirit of stewardship that is at the heart of Catholicism.

"A lot of times, we think of stewardship as a broad range of activities that are far out in the community," says kindergarten teacher Leah Waters. "We don't always view stewardship as being right there in front of us, or as easy and accessible. However, it does not always have to be hard to do. The little things can make a big difference in someone's life. It doesn't take much to go up to a little kid and ask how their day is going, but it can mean a lot."

The Buddy Program allows the eighth-grade students to pair up with a buddy in the kindergarten class. Throughout the year, the eighth-grade class visits the kindergarten classroom once every week or every other week for 30-40 minutes, and the eighth-graders help the kindergartners with crafts, experiments, reading, or other skills.

"I really believe in the Buddy Program," says eighth-grade teacher Donna Richmiller. "I think it's good for the school and the parish. The eighth-graders really benefit from the special bond that forms between them and their buddies. It really helps them to start thinking about responsibility and create a family atmosphere at the school."

By helping the kindergartners with various service projects, field trips, or classroom lessons throughout the year, the eighth-graders truly start to develop an awareness of discipleship and stewardship, as they are responsible for helping out another particular individual. The actions, though simple, teach the children that being part of a community means helping each other in daily life, sharing kind words, and accepting the responsibility that comes with knowledge and love. The bonds that form allow them to experience life as a community.

"I'm really glad that the kindergartners have someone as they come into school that they can look up to that is not a brother or a sister," Mrs. Waters says. "If you have a friend, someone older you can wave to in the hallway or talk to, it really gives the little ones a sense

*continued on back cover*



*Students work together for a service project at the Good Samaritan Home, helping to plant flowers.*



*The Buddy Program allows our eighth-graders and kindergartners to learn how to serve the community together, as well as to work on skills such as reading and tying shoes.*

# ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA

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CONFESSIONS: SATURDAY 5:15 - 6:15 P.M.

## The Buddy Program *continued from page 7*



*The children enjoy a trip to the Pumpkin Patch in the fall.*

of belonging. The eighth-graders also help with showing them what to do at Mass and how to be respectful.”

A sense of unity and family is created in the school through the ongoing Buddy Program year after year. The program allows our children to learn what stewardship truly means while forming a deeper understanding of community. As the school year begins, let us keep all of the children of the parish in our prayers as they continue to grow and learn through education.

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*“I’m really glad that the kindergartners have someone as they come into school that they can look up that is not a brother or a sister. If you have a friend, someone older you can wave to in the hallway or talk to, it really gives the little ones a sense of belonging. The eighth-graders also help with showing them what to do at Mass and how to be respectful.” – Mrs. Leah Waters, kindergarten teacher*

To learn more about stewardship at St. Anthony of Padua, please contact the Stewardship Committee at [stanthonystewardship2015@gmail.com](mailto:stanthonystewardship2015@gmail.com).