



## **Rooted in Abundance Stewardship Talk by Diane Bondioli at the 8 am mass on October 8, 2023**

I began attending St. Margaret's on a regular basis in 2008 when the average attendance at the 8:00 mass could be counted on one hand. Please look around now and do a quick count. I give thanks to Almighty God, the Diocese, the supply priests (especially Fr. Ralph Howe), but most of all, Deacon Cindy Obier and the congregation leaders who brought us through the dark period. Since that time, we have been blessed by having Fr. Patrick and by our beloved Fr. Tommy who have moved St. Margaret's forward to a success the 2008 congregation could not have imagined. Stewardship campaigns are based on the mantra: time, talent, and treasure. Amy Warrington, our Stewardship Chair, addressed this very well last week. You can track the "treasure" component on the chart in the foyer. We all know that St. Margaret's needs funds to cover basic expenses and further progress, and as Amy observed, we are hoping to increase contributions by 5% for 2024. You can track the progress on the chart in the entry way. I hope you will step up as generously as you can.

Fr. Tommy has asked me to speak on the time and talent components. As I see it, we have options on how we are called to serve our God.

We can participate directly in the mass - by being lay eucharistic ministers, acolytes, ushers, choir members, readers, ushers, leading the prayers of the people, choir members, or serving on the altar guild. I hope you will consider serving as God calls you to in these spiritually fulfilling ministries. We also have opportunities to serve in parish roles that support in other ways, from the children's ministry and adult Christian education, vestry, and those who are helping to bring us to a new vision of environmental responsibility. I have served on vestry and as Senior Warden, both life changing experiences. I strongly encourage you to step up as a candidate for vestry - we need them from the 8:00 congregation. Meanwhile, our lay eucharistic visitors bring the sacrament to those who cannot attend services in person. Andrea and I were privileged to bring communion to Dottie Smith, a long-time member, and her beloved family. What a wonderful experience!

We also have congregants who speak up and represent St. Margaret's and join with Fr. Tommy about issues in the outside community through various outreaches, from our La Mesa Latino ministry to supporting community endeavors including ties with Together Baton Rouge, Interfaith Fellowship, and Diocesan initiatives supporting inclusion and diversity. May the Holy Spirit guide you in the direction right for you.