



**For just as the body is one
And has many members,
And all the members of the Body,
Though many,
Are one body,
So it is with Christ.**

1 Corinthians 12: 1

Dear Friends in Christ,

Throughout Scripture, we are reminded that God calls us together as one Body in Christ. Despite our differences, we are called to love each other. When we live and love together, we all flourish. As we embark on a new program year at St. Francis, we are focused on the gifts that we have and the ministry opportunities before us. The last 18 months have been incredibly challenging, and St. Francis has still managed to thrive. Our greatest gift is that we are united in our faith. In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus commends the woman with the hemorrhages, because of her faith. "Daughter, your faith has made you well" (Mark 5:34). Faith is the key to our spiritual, social and even physical wellness. Wellness is the theme of our stewardship campaign this year. Our congregation is so blessed with wellness that we have the opportunity to help others live into that same wellness that is Christ's love.

As part of our stewardship campaign, we will create a stewardship quilt that will include a quilting square for every pledge card. Pledges can be in the form of time, talent or treasure. You simply need to return a pledge card, and you will be included in our quilt. Our quilt will be a beautiful physical manifestation of our spiritual and social unity. For 2022, we are hoping to raise \$30,000 more than we raised in 2021 to cover cost-of-living increases for staff and inflation-adjusted expenses. That chart below shows how your pledged dollars will be used next year. More importantly, we are hoping for 120 pledgers, up from 109 for this year. Our goal is greater participation across our parish. We are joined together in wellness and ministry. We each have a role to play in the Body of Christ.

Please find a pledge card enclosed. You can return it to the church or fill it out on the St. Francis website. Thank you for all that you do for this community. I look forward to our ongoing ministry of Jesus Christ.

Peace and blessings,

The Rev. Dr. Brendan J. Barnicle

