

# THE STEWARDSHIP WAY OF LIFE

## Thriving and Growing At Holy Trinity Parish

Since its inception in 1992, Holy Trinity Parish has sought to be a vibrant, active community of faith, hope, and love. As disciples of Christ, all who have worshiped in our parish have heard the simple message of God's great love for us. And all have been asked to live God's simple yet powerful commandment to "love one another as I have loved you." (John 14:34). Always generous with their time, talent and treasure, parishioners decided to take the leap of faith to become a "Stewardship parish" in 2005. The leap has been exciting, challenging, and deeply rewarding for all those who have committed themselves to a Stewardship Way of Life. We're proud to say: it's also been a success.

### TIME



Time is our most valuable commodity. Although God gives each of us an equal amount of time: 24 hours in a day and 168 hours in a week, He also provides us with the free will to manage how we spend that time. *Do we reserve the one hour each week God asks for, where we join together on Sunday with our parish community to worship as the Body of Christ? Do we make "time for God" in our busy lives?*

Since 2005, nearly 1200 new households have chosen to worship with us at Holy Trinity. Our energetic faith community prays with enthusiasm at five heavily-attended weekend Masses, as well as weekday Mass. Because of the special interest of those wishing to worship with us at Christmas and Easter, we have added additional Masses in the Social Center.

This spirit of celebration and prayer extends beyond the doors of our church, and over the past three years, we've added opportunities for prayer, study, devotion, and fellowship. Parishioners are hungry to be fed the good news of Jesus Christ.

### TALENT



Holy Trinity boasts over 60 ministries and affiliated organizations, encouraging every member of the parish to find a home in which they can pledge their unique talents to the mission of God.

Recognizing the varied and expansive talents represented in our parishioners, a main focus of our stewardship efforts has been to engage parishioners in ministry and service. Since 2005, the results have been nothing short of inspiring.

At last count, parishioners had become stewards of nearly 1850 ministry positions. Although a breath-taking number, it's not really surprising. With the first "Chair Ministry," in the Silva Valley Gym, Holy Trinity stewards actually "built a church" anew each week in the gym they rented to celebrate Mass.

The need to return one's talents through service has long been a hallmark of our parish.

### TREASURE



Our parishioners have always been generous with God's treasure. But our parish, like most others, often thought about money as a means to raise funds for expenses rather than raising our awareness of giving as an expression of gratitude for what God has given us.

Beginning in 2005, Holy Trinity Parish focused on the Scriptural concept of Stewardship, asking parishioners to give gratefully back to God from the first fruits of what has been given to them from their loving God. True stewards recognize that God's gifts to us are continual and without strings; therefore, our gifts back to Him should be exactly the same.

As 2005 ended, our five year "Path of Faith" building campaign was also ending. With its completion came the last of nearly \$700,000 in annual campaign pledges. Consequently, we faced 2006 with nearly 40% of our annual revenue evaporating.

But since stewardship has taken root in our parish, the financial generosity of our parishioners has set even new records. In fact, in rough numbers, total regular income for the five years before 2005 was \$8.5 million (a record for our parish). In the last five years – since we began our Stewardship efforts in earnest – our total income was \$9.5 million (an increase of \$1 million without a capital campaign) ... all to be used to change lives in God's kingdom.