

Commitment enriches Stewardship Council

This week I want to mention two transitions that have given me food for thought in recent days. The first is a change in leadership in our Stewardship Council. The second is more personal, since it relates to a new arrival in our family.

1.) Eight years ago I was somewhat nervous when I went to Dan Gill to request that he help organize and chair the first Bishop's Stewardship Council. I was asking a lot and knew that Dan was extremely busy as the chief executive officer of Bausch & Lomb and that he was deeply involved in many community activities. You can imagine my relief when, immediately after welcoming me to his office, Dan said, "Whatever your question is, the answer is yes."

I have never forgotten the moment because of what it said to me about Dan's generous willingness to place his rich experience and considerable skills at the service of others.

For eight years he lived out his initial yes by offering his time, treasure and talent to strengthen our local church. He assembled an extraordinary group of people to serve on our first Stewardship Council and saw to it that we laid a solid, thoughtful foundation upon which to build.

Under Dan's leadership, the council developed strong finance, development and investment committees whose wise counsel

along the way

BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK



and guidance continue to strengthen our diocese. He has chaired our executive committee through all of these years and serves as the chairperson of our Miracle of Sharing Campaign.

In addition, Dan led an early committee that studied and made some significant recommendations that helped us to improve our organizational structure.

Dan brought more than strong commitment and a wide range of skills to these tasks. He brought a cooperative spirit, good humor and a generous desire to be of service whenever that was asked of him. I am grateful to him for all of that, for his friendship and for his expressed willingness to continue his support even as he steps aside from this particular task.

Sally True, a Stewardship Council member from Ithaca, has generously agreed to succeed Dan as chairperson. Jose Coronas will serve as vice chair. I have no doubt that

these two very generous and gifted individuals and our other stewards will build well on the strong foundation laid by Dan Gill and his first colleagues. My sincere thanks to all.

2.) On May 13 my niece, Jane, gave birth to Megan Grace Neff, the second child for her and her husband, Scott. Both mother and daughter are doing very well, and relatives on all sides of the family are filled with delight.

I had the pleasure of seeing Megan when she was two days old. What a tremendous joy it was to hold her and admire the awesome handiwork of God. It was also fascinating to watch Julie, Megan's 27-month-old sister, study her new sibling with such curiosity and caress her sister's head with tenderness.

Megan is the eighth consecutive female descendant of my mother and father since I was born in 1937. After me came my sister, Helen, and her daughters, Grace, Jane, Mary Ellen, Margaret and Kathleen. Now we have Julie and Megan. I am thrilled that the string remains intact because every one of the eight is a joy.

And, so sure was I that the new baby would be a girl that I made wagers with friends, which now find me two books and two meals richer than I was before Megan joined our company.

Peace to all.

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