

Parishioner to Parishioner
Some Thoughts
On the Generations of Faith Campaign

If you're anything like me, the last thing you want to hear at Mass is another appeal for money. We've come to pray and get away from our cares—or maybe just hand them over to God. Yet here we are being asked to contribute once again. It takes some doing to get over the annoyance when our quiet thoughts are interrupted by such practical matters. But eventually we get over it because we love our faith, the Church and RA. Otherwise, we wouldn't be sitting in these pews week after week.

I've had to ask the Lord more than once to please let me have an open mind on this subject. (And even for Him that's not always a small task!) Now I'd like to share some of the conclusions I've reached with you. It might help you to make a decision you are comfortable with in terms of responding to this most recent request for assistance that comes from our diocese.

- ❖ We are not really a captive audience. We attend Mass by choice. From a practical standpoint, the only time we are all gathered together to receive parish information is when we are at Mass.
- ❖ The Generations of Faith Campaign is underway in our diocese and our parish. Some very generous souls have already responded to the appeal. As in the past, many are the same people who consent to bear the burden over and over. Yet all of us belong to the same parish family.
- ❖ In our own personal families every member has a part to play, a contribution to make—whether great or small. For each of us our role is unique and how we undertake it depends on many factors. But how we work together for the good of all determines the strength of our family and how well it functions. It's no different with our parish family. RA, too, has a need for cooperation from all its members in order to help it run smoothly and efficiently.

Few, if any of us, would argue with the goals outlined in the Generations of Faith Campaign. Certainly, it is not only the right thing to do, but what we wholeheartedly want to do: care for our infirm and retired priests who have served us over many years, and strengthen the development of character and faith in our youth who are the future of our Church. We are no strangers to these goals since chief priorities in our own families are concern for the elderly and the young. As for investment in our parish property: we recognize that maintenance is necessary and less costly in the long run. The fact that at least half of the monies donated will come back to RA is simply good for RA, good for us all. And a youth minister would surely be a plus.

So, pray for that open mind. Consider, decide and act on behalf of our parish. Let's not just leave it to the people in the other pews. Each of us knows what and how we can contribute. It's between us and God. Every gift helps, and He loves us, no matter what!

Thank you for your patience in *listening*. May God bless us.