



“Come and See the works of God Who is awesome” (Psalm 66:5)

"Everyone who receives must realize that he receives that which is God's, and, when a man gives, he must realize that he gives that which is God's . . . If you have been given wealth, it has been given to you as a test. It is to test your heart, to let God and the hosts of heaven see if you have understood from whom your wealth comes and why it has been given to you. Truly blessed are you if you understand that your wealth comes from God and belongs to God."

These words, written by Saint Nikolai Velimirovich, whose mosaic icon looks down upon us from the Sanctuary apse above the altar, are fitting indeed as we listen carefully to the message of this modern day saint and consider how his words will impact the thinking which motivates our own approach to living and to giving.

It is my belief that each of us is, to a greater or lesser degree, wealthy, because we are alive and receive God's grace each new day. As Dr. Tanya Spirtos noted in her excellently prepared presentation at our most recent General Assembly, "We should give simply because we exist." If we acknowledge this fact, it is then that we know we are a people of wealth because we, in God's infinite wisdom and by His Grace, do exist and those of us to whom this letter is addressed are fortunate to be additionally blessed with the material wealth necessary to meet our every need. Hence, we are on both counts, one based upon the other, people of wealth.

It is within this understanding that I ask each of us to **“come and see”** and ***"commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God."***

I ask that you carefully consider this message of our Holy Orthodox faith . . . We are who we are because God is who He is. It is from the abundance which is from Him that we are wealthy and are therefore called to be cheerful givers, responsible Christian stewards of the Vineyard which is ours. I ask that we "let God and the hosts of heaven see that we understand from whom our wealth comes and why it has been given to us."

Your Parish Council is committed to this understanding of the purpose for our lives and specifically to the understanding that we are called to be responsible stewards of this our Holy Cross Community . . . We invite your participation in this year's pledge campaign to help us be good and responsible stewards of our Church, being mindful that our Lord knows our heart and mind!

Please complete the enclosed card and return it as soon as possible. Your efforts to this end will assist your Parish Council in the responsible management of the myriad programs and responsibilities with which we as a Holy Cross community are blessed.

Faithfully,

Father Peter G. Salmas
Stewardship Program, 2010