

Thank you, Fr. Bob.

As Fr. Bob stated I am Doug Fangmeier and I recently accepted the position of trustee here at St. Patrick's. My predecessor was Larry Butler. Just this week, I asked Larry how long he had been a trustee. He told me it has been so long that he no longer remembers. I would like to recognize the years of service, obviously many, that Larry has given to St. Patrick's. Larry is not at this mass so if you should see him in the near future, please thank him for his years of service as a trustee.

Let me tell you a little about myself. My wife, Jan, and I have been members of St. Patrick's since 1976. We have two children, Michelle and Mark, who are grown, married and have given us three granddaughters. On occasion, we have one or more of our granddaughters for weekend overnights and you may have seen them with us at the 10:30 mass. I have been retired for over a year. In terms of ministries that I am involved in, I tutor math at Cristo Rey High School in Minneapolis. Here at St. Pat's, I am a Eucharistic Minister and a catechist in the confirmation program within Faith Formation. This will be my 32<sup>nd</sup> year as a catechist and, that may sound long, but there are many people who have been in ministry here longer than me. We have very dedicated people in many of our ministries.

When Fr. Bob first asked me to speak on stewardship, I thought I had better find a good definition of stewardship, so I went to the website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and they had an article on stewardship. It was a long article. It was a very long article.

If I had decided to use it as the basis for this talk, this would have been a very long talk and none of us want that to happen. I think we all know what stewardship is within the church. It's time, talent and treasure. So, instead of defining stewardship, I want to talk about how

we as individuals can promote stewardship here at St. Patrick's and I'm only going to talk about the very first step that each of us need to take.

Whenever I need clarity, wisdom or insight on a topic, I always turn to three sources – scripture, Pope Francis and Superman. I am a huge fan of Superman. My granddaughters know how much I like Superman and they are always looking for items to give me as gifts. I have Superman socks, Superman t-shirts, Superman mugs, a Superman clock and even a Superman laundry hamper. All from my granddaughters.

But let's leave Superman for later and start with scripture. In today's Gospel reading, Jesus spoke of two brothers whose father wanted them to work in the vineyard. Their father wanted them to be responsible, to be stewards of the vineyard. One brother said yes and did nothing while the other brother said no but then went and cared for the vineyard. Jesus asked the question "who did the will of the father". It was the brother who took action.

If you attended mass or read the daily Gospel on Tuesday, you would have heard in Luke's Gospel, Jesus saying "My mother and brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it". Jesus is telling us that we need to do more than just sit in the pews, we need to take action.

Turning to Pope Francis, he has a Twitter account and unlike some users of Twitter, his tweets are well thought out and show wisdom. On January 20<sup>th</sup> of 2014, Pope Francis tweeted "It is not enough to say we are Christians. We must live the faith, not only with our words but with our actions." There's that theme again about taking action.

Superman/Clark Kent is a great example of someone using their gifts and taking action in stewardship. If you saw the movie "Man of Steel" you know that Clark's adopted father did not want him to use his superpowers while growing up. As Clark matured, he realized he had a

responsibility to be a steward to his adopted world and to take actions to protect and help people. In the last movie, Superman joined with Batman and Wonder Woman to protect and to help people. They took action.

I don't have superpowers. I am not faster than a speeding bullet and I can't leap tall buildings in a single bound. Fr. Bob drives a Dodge Journey. It is definitely not the Batmobile. I am pretty sure that no one sitting here has a secret identity and a cape in their closet. None of us have the ability of superpowers but we do have the ability which Pope Francis and Jesus spoke of. The ability to take action.

This weekend, the Ministry Fair is being held in Shamrock Hall at which you can see how stewardship is promoted here at St. Patrick's. But you have to take action. The Ministry Fair is your opportunity as Pope Francis said to live your faith with action. It is your opportunity as Jesus said to hear the word of God and act. It is your opportunity to do the will of the Father.

As Superman once said, "It's not about where you were born. Or what powers you have. Or what you wear on your chest. It's about what you do. It's about action."

Thank you.