

28 September 2008

Dear Parishioners,

In June, I spent a few days in retreat at the Benedictine Abbey in Mission, B.C. During the community meals in refectory they were reading a book called “Rediscovering Catholicism” by Matthew Kelly.

At one point he asks the question: “What makes for an authentic life?” And he said that it is at the point when I no longer ask the question, “What’s in it for me?” when looking at life. Rather, “What can I do for others?”

That is the motivating question when it comes to stewardship and to the practice of the Gospel. And, when I think of stewardship at Our Lady of the Lake Parish Maggy Beaver comes to mind.

Maggy just celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and I was honored to have been a part of the celebration her family threw for her at McCormick & Schmidt’s on Lake Union. She’s as feisty and alive as ever: her mind sharp and her commitment to this parish unwavering. She continues to be a life-giving presence with a faith in God I find encouraging.

For years she’s been committed to this parish: to its school; to new members; to our youth; to the marginalized we serve at Francis House; to anyone in need. What I have enjoyed about Maggy—among other things—has been her presence at OLL auctions bidding on almost anything and practically everything: her bid card in hand and raised above her. She has given and continues to give above the ordinary, as a number of you do in this parish. The afternoon of her birthday she reminded me of such giving at OLL when she said in her Boston accent: “You know, Father, this is a very generous parish.” And I know that it is indeed.

Maggy Beaver, among others, is an icon of stewardship. May she inspire us all in our stewardship. And may the motivating question of our life together at Our Lady of the Lake be: “What can I do for others?” In that significant way we image Christ whose commitment to us is unwavering.

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