**2023 Cover Letter to Parishioners**

**Stewardship Awareness Sunday**

*(English)*

<<DATE>>

<<ADDRESSEE>>

<<ADDRESS LINE 1>>
<<ADDRESS LINE 2>>

<<CITY>>, <<STATE>>, <<ZIP>>

Dear <<SALUTATION>>,

*“Behold, I make all things new…I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water.” (Rev. 21:5-6)*

This year, we have heard the phrase “All Things New” many times as our parishes, schools and ministries are participating in the archdiocesan strategic planning process. Intentional Stewardshipis a guiding principle in this process, which centers on our own personal, interior transformation of our hearts.

As we approach this year’s Stewardship Awareness Sunday, let us remember that all good things come from God, and we are sent to do His will. Spend some time in quiet prayer reflecting on how you will renew your stewardship covenant this year. Use the enclosed material to guide your reflection. Together, let us recommit to each of the three key elements of living a God-centered life:

* **We are rooted in prayer.** Everything we have in life is a blessing from God. Consider beginning every day by thanking God for all He has given you – and you may soon find yourself talking with Him all day long!
* **We are committed to participation.** You have a charism, a spiritual gift, which is given to us by the Holy Spirit. Spend time in prayer to discern the gifts the Holy Spirit has given to you - and then, let’s use them in strengthening our community!
* **We are called to generosity.** God never asks anything of us that he has not already given. Jesus was God’s first fruits, the best of humanity, which He gave up for us. We are invited to share all of our gifts, including our money, with those around us.

In the beginning, we were created in God’s image. At the end, we strive to live eternally with God in Heaven. Today, we must humbly open your hearts and live the life we were made for. Stewardship is this new beginning. We were made for more. We were made for God!

Gratefully,

<<PASTOR NAME>>
<<PARISH NAME>>

PS: As you pray, consider the words of the prophet Isaiah: *“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?’ ‘Here I am,’ I said, ‘send me!’” (Isaiah 6:8). How will you answer, “Here I am, Lord” this year?*