

“The Spirit is Willing But the Flesh is Weak”



Last November we went through the process of evaluation and commitment of our Time, Talent and Treasure and pledged what we would give for the upcoming year. Since that time we have passed through the Season of Thanksgiving (Thanksgiving), the Season of Giving (Christmas), the Season of Resolution (New Year), the Season of Repentance (Lent), the Season of Rejoicing (Easter) and now finally we have reached Ordinary Time, and we have become ordinary again.

It is difficult to track the fulfillment of the pledges of Time and Talent, but some of the chairs of committees are having to work harder than average to keep their rolls filled and get their work done. We seem to be forgetting our commitments. It is easier to track Sunday giving. The included graph shows a 25 Sunday period from October 1, 2017 through March 20, 2018. This is almost six months of giving. The blue line is the weekly deposit Sunday-by-Sunday for a year ago. The red line is the Sunday-by-Sunday deposits for this year. The blue dotted line is the average giving for a year ago, the red dotted line is the average giving for this past year. The green line is the budgeted need.

As you can see the average giving approaches the budget, but as you can also see the red line had a large increase right after we made our commitments. This then quickly fell off back to near the giving of the prior year. Christmas was similar both years. The problem is the increase in giving after commitment carried us because it increased the average. But, week-by-week the giving average is declining. The year over year Sunday giving is now almost the same as last year and declining. We have forgotten our commitment.

If you read the Old Testament in the Bible this is no surprise. Over and over the Israelites would make a promise to God and then gradually forget and drift away. God would then shake the boat with some disaster; they would get the message and make the promises again. Gradually they would forget again. It seems some things about human nature don't change. "The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak!" Please reassess your commitments of Time, Talent and Treasure. Respond when your committee chair calls, or even better volunteer! They are working to make your parish better. Don't make their job any harder than needed. It is not fair to them, or to God. Also check if you are meeting your pledge for giving or if you have become ordinary again!

