

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

From the very beginning of His public ministry, Our Lord gathered communities around Him. He said that whenever even two or three met in His name, He would be with them. The same is true today when we come together as the Parish community here. The Church has always been this living community that preaches the Gospel and celebrates the sacraments to make visible Christ's presence in our world. It also must sustain itself to achieve these ends.

The last couple of Years have been very difficult dealing with the pandemic and the decrease in numbers attending the Church and those taking part in activities has not only seen a significant reduction in the Income whilst the expenditure has remained but the need to support our parish, our everyday parish life including the various programmes and projects has remained. The Parish and our Church need full support to continue with their Mission.

Each Parish is responsible for its own activities and property, independent of the Diocese. Parishioners are therefore called to share their Time and Talents for the Parish. I'm very grateful for the support that so many people give to our Parish, and their continued participation in the life of our community. However, considering the above and the ever-changing world we live in, we have decided to carry out a Planned Giving and Stewardship Drive, where we are asking parishioners to reflect on their blessings, gifts and skills whether that be their time, talents or treasures.

We are seeking to increase involvement and revenue in all aspects of Parish Life and to refresh our parish for all that lies ahead. All parishioners are encouraged to contribute to the life of the Parish and the Church, this can be achieved in many ways including financially, volunteering their skills and time to all sorts of roles and assisting in any other ways towards the life of the Parish. It should enable ALL members of our Parish to become fully part of the Parish Family.

In the light of the many pastoral activities taking place here in the parish, may I invite you please in the weeks ahead to reflect on your involvement with the Parish and the sharing of your Time and Talents.

Father Patrick Adusei Poku

If you have any questions, please ask a volunteer after Mass or contact:

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WEEK 1

ORATORY OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

HARTLEY



OUR CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

Sharing your Time and Talents
Participating in the Life of the Parish

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK
Registered Charity Number 1173050



“...since everything has come from you, and we have given you only what you bestowed in the first place”

I Chronicles 29: 14

All we have comes from God, so we are Stewards sharing our Time and Talents

Whether it is the gift of our faith, our friends and family, our skills, possessions, or the gift of life itself! The Catholic social teaching principle of stewardship is about being responsible guardians. We are guardians of the earth. Exercising stewardship is caring for the gifts God has given us, including the environment, our own personal talents and other resources.

So how do I respond? Do I give thanks to God and honour Him through how I use these gifts? Regularly reflecting on my blessings and renewing my commitment to the Faith through my volunteering and sharing is therefore an important part of my personal growth and discipleship to the Parish and the wider community

Time, Treasure, Talents

Each one of us is blessed with a unique portion of time, treasure and talents that God wants us to use and share with others for His glory. Our Parish would not function without the generosity of our parishioners giving their time and talents and sharing their financial blessings.



“Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

- 2 Corinthians 9:7

What does my Parish mean to me?

Our Parish relies on the many volunteers to maintain and grow our mission. Some examples are as follows:

- During Mass i.e., Welcoming, Reading, Altar Servers, etc.
- Eucharistic Minister, Musician, Singing in the Various Choirs
- Preparing Tea and Coffee after Mass,
- Cleaning the Church,
- Visiting the Housebound and the Sick,
- Assisting in the Garden and Outdoor Areas
- Being involved in the Parish Associations / Committees.

As **Stewards** of this Parish, we are responsible for our Parish, with a duty to pass it on to future generations in even better condition than when we received it.

The Church is an important part of the Parish.

- We do not receive funding from the Government, the Vatican or Diocese.
- Whatever you decide, the amount should suit your circumstances and be meaningful to you.
- Every little helps and if everyone gave little, this would assist with the Total Collection.



We should consider offering our Time, Talents and Treasure to God and the Parish