



And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. And all ate and were filled. What was left over was gathered up, twelve baskets of broken pieces. Luke 9:16-17, NRSV

September 25, 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I am grateful to each of you, as I approach the end of my tenure as your Rector. Over the years, I have witnessed such generosity as you have contributed your ideas, your funds, your energy, and your time to the St. Francis Community. Every dollar that we raise, every minute of time given, every good plan comes from the heart and goes toward our mission.

Our stewardship campaign this year focuses on abundance: the ways in which our human gifts meet the needs of the world; the ways in which we respond to the Gospel; the ways in which we sustain our community. Our theology of giving focuses on the three-legged stool of *Wealth, Works, and Wisdom*, the ways in which we make our gifts to the world. In today's letter, I would like to focus on Wisdom.

Ancient biblical texts personify *Holy Wisdom* as a woman, and She has often been seen as the embodiment of the Divine Feminine.ⁱ Wisdom is the source of inspiration, creativity, and guidance that has been present in the world from the beginning. Wisdom smooths out the edges of our Creation and gives us ways to make order, plan for change, prepare for renewal, and appreciate what we have. She is in all of us – indeed, in every creature -- resonant, reactive, reaching forward to make connections among our traditions and culture and experience.

More Than Enough, the theme for our campaign, brings us back to that moment of miracle described in Luke's Gospel, having just been fed by Jesus from a scant few loaves and fishes. The people in that story heard Jesus' call to share what they had in order that all might benefit; and that is what you do with the gift of Wisdom you possess. When we have plans that need to be developed, or ministries that need to be led, or problems that need to be solved, so many of you have answered the call of God and your church, and shared your wisdom and experience. Wisdom adds to wisdom, and working together, St. Francis' mission grows. Without each of us sharing our wisdom and resources, our church and our ministry would be diminished.

In a few weeks, you will receive an invitation to commit your gifts in the coming year to sustain the ministry of St. Francis with one another and for the world we are called to serve in Christ's Name. Please pray with us as we launch our gathering of gifts and gratitude, and begin to consider how you will contribute your gift of wisdom.

In Abundant Gratitude,

The Rev. Jack Zamboni, *Rector*

ⁱ This is the recurring theme of a book I'm now reading: [At Play in Creation: \[Thomas\] Merton's Awakening to the Feminine Divine](#) by Christopher Pramuk