

# Stewardship: A Disciple's Response

## Ministry Spotlight:

### Art and Environment

Every flower, altar cloth and candle has been thoughtfully positioned. Nothing happens by chance. The work of St. Sebastian's Art and Environment Committee greatly enhances the liturgical experience for all.

In recent days, the committee members have been bringing out the pink and purple – the colors of Advent. Just a week earlier, the church was filled with the colors and symbols of the harvest, fall's bounty and Thanksgiving.

"We try to make the church as inviting as possible and yet we don't want to detract from the peace and quiet," said Nancy Demeter, chairman of the Art and Environment Committee.

Much of the art is richly, although perhaps subtly, symbolic. For example, at the beginning of Lent, urns in the church vestibule first contain dead wood branches. Then, within a few weeks, a few green leaves are added, followed by pussy willow, forsythia and palms.

"The growth in the urns, hopefully, coincides with the growth in our spiritual lives as we move closer to Easter," said Ann Zsembik, a long-time committee member.

The work of the committee is guided by church doctrine, the liturgical calendar, and budgetary and safety concerns. For example, church rules dictate that real flowers, not silk flowers, grace the altar, while local fire codes require altar cloths be made of flame-resistant fabrics.

"It is a lot of work, but we love the opportunity to be creative, use our imaginations and to hear compliments from parishioners who say, 'I love what you do,' and 'You make my liturgy even more beautiful,'" said Ann.

The committee members take photos of their various arrangements so they can refer back to see what's been done for the various liturgical seasons and holy days. They continually consider ways to improve and enhance their work.

"We work well as a team, but could always use more hands to set up and especially to take down things, wrap them and put them back into storage," said Ann.

If you would like to learn more about the Art and Environment Committee, contact Nancy Demeter at 330-836-8758.

## Faith in Action:

### Nancy Demeter and Ann Zsembik

Ann Zsembik took one beginning floral design class at Pat Catan's but has mostly learned "on the job" how to beautify St. Sebastian. Both Ann and Nancy Demeter have been open to learning, listening and giving of their time and talents serving for many years on St. Sebastian's Art and Environment Committee.

Nancy is married; she and her husband, Joe, have four children and three grandchildren. She is also a server and Eucharistic minister.

Ann and her husband, Richard, have nine children and 19 grandchildren. She is lector and Eucharistic minister.

### Thoughts on Stewardship

"Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxiety of daily life." Luke 21:34

These ministry profiles are being brought to you by the St. Sebastian Stewardship Committee. Would you like to share the story of your ministry? Contact David Tschantz at 330-864-0646 or [dtschant@neo.rr.com](mailto:dtschant@neo.rr.com), or Holly Pupino at 330-665-2248 or [spupino@neo.rr.com](mailto:spupino@neo.rr.com).