

# Stewardship: A Disciple's Response

## Ministry Spotlight: Baptism

The goal of St. Sebastian's Baptism Preparation Committee is to make the sacrament of baptism as meaningful as possible for the families planning it.

The volunteers who make up the committee can serve in one of two ways: they can lead the baptism preparation classes or help with the set-up and coordination for baptisms.

"The class includes a video presentation, and a summary of the history and symbolism of the sacrament," said Bobbie DeKemper, who leads the committee. "It will also address such practical matters as the role of the parents and godparents during the service."

The class is required of all parents going through baptism with a first child or if it has been three years or more since an older child was baptized.

Baptisms are held at the various Sunday Masses and 1:15 p.m. on a rotating schedule.

"The volunteers on our committee teach one class every four months so it is not a huge time commitment," said DeKemper. "We do need people who are organized and enthused to be working with couples during this special time in their lives."

Those working on the set-up subcommittee simply meet with the families about 20 minutes prior to the baptism and answer any last-minute questions. About four to ten baptisms are performed each month.

"What I enjoy about this ministry is the opportunity to meet other parishioners," DeKemper said. "You become a familiar face to others."

If you would like to get involved with the baptism ministry, contact DeKemper at 330-865-6539.

## Stewardship Profile: Bobbie DeKemper

In an age when most people jump at the opportunity to move, and families become increasingly spread out across the country, Bobbie DeKemper did the opposite. Nine years ago, she and her husband, Don,

welcomed the opportunity to move back to Bobbie's childhood home on Orlando Avenue and have their five children grow up in the same parish she did.

Bobbie's parents were downsizing to an apartment and, although the family enjoyed living in Firestone Park, they were glad to come back to West Akron and St. Sebastian Church.

"We thought it was important to have extended family nearby," she said. As a result, the DeKemper kids – Andrew, 13; Nicholas, 12; Kate, 10; Anna, 8; and Nora, 4 – get to see both sets of grandparents often.

The DeKempers are very active in the parish. The kids play football, baseball, basketball, soccer, and softball and Don does quite a bit of the coaching.

Bobbie is active in St. Sebastian Home and School Association's (HASA) mentoring program, which links new families to "veteran" families in the parish.

She is also a member of Moms in Touch, a group of mothers who get together to pray for the students and teachers at their school.

Moms in Touch is an international organization founded in 1984 by a California mother who believed in the power of prayer. Now, there are more than 18,500 school-based prayer groups nationwide.

"We will probably continue to meet on Monday afternoons before school lets out," said DeKemper. "We would love to have new mothers join us this year."

If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.

Mark 9:35

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).