

The Reverend Manuel Borg  
St. Nicholas Episcopal Church  
1072 Ridge Avenue  
Elk Grove Village IL 60007

All Saints Day  
November 1, 2013

Dear Friend of St. Nicholas Episcopal,

This year has truly been an extraordinary one with God's abundant blessings everywhere! For these blessings and your dedication to our ministries and generous spirit, I am extremely grateful.

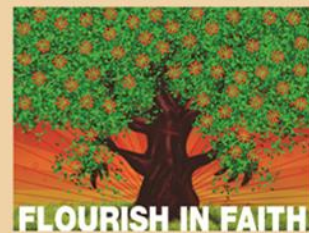
During the months of October and November, we have the opportunity to deepen our faith and commitment to the ministries of St. Nicholas. Each Sunday the bulletin inserts are reflecting on the weekly Gospel lesson and the theme "Flourish in Faith." I hope that the time you have spent examining these reflections and considering the questions they have raised have given you a deeper understanding of stewardship and what it truly means to "Flourish in Faith."

This is a time for reflection on all of life as gift from God: relationships, family, vocation, environment and material wealth. By returning to God a portion of this abundance, we become more like the generous God in whose image we have been created. How we earn, save, spend and give makes a significant difference in the life of others. Perhaps even more importantly, these activities impact our own spiritual well-being and our ability to flourish in faith.

As always, this year the Bishop's Committee continues to set a goal of receiving financial commitments from 100% of our membership. These commitments will enable St. Nicholas to grow in ministry, serving as the hands and feet of Christ in the world. I invite you to consider the many blessings in your life and how your giving reflects the image of a generous and loving God. With the committed financial support from all our



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members, it will ensure the viability of our spiritual home and the important ministries that St. Nicholas provides to our members and extended community.

This year, we will celebrate "Commitment Weekend" on Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> as a culmination of our reflective stewardship journey. The offering of our pledges will become part of our worship that weekend. A basket will be placed at the entrance to the Worship Space for us to place our pledge cards in prior to the beginning of the service. Prior to the offertory the basket will be brought forward and placed on the altar. We will ask God to bless us and the commitment we make.

I hope the "Flourish in Faith" series will be a blessing to you and your family. I encourage you to take time to pray and listen to God during this pledge season. The Apostle Paul challenged believers to use the spiritual resources available to them - love, the power of the Spirit, and the intellect God gave us. Remember the Holy Spirit is at work quietly among us. Trust God to enable you to "Flourish in Faith."

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Manny Borg', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Manny Borg  
Vicar



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