



October 2012
Volume 85 Number 8

From the Clergy Associate

Thank you

As John Hartnett mentioned in the September edition of *The Tower*, these past months have certainly presented our parish with some “difficult news and challenging situations”.... And in response to these challenges, members of St. Elizabeth’s have responded generously with their offerings of time, talent, and treasure. Many thanks to all of you who have prepared and delivered meals, sent cards, called, emailed, and visited our fellow parishioners who have been most affected by these “challenging situations”. One parishioner who was the recipient of some of these meals, cards, visits, and “tangible expressions” of love and support wondered how anyone every made it through such difficult situations without “all of this”.... One’s faith and relationship with God is foundational in how one navigates through life; and it certainly helps to have a faith community which supports one – especially in navigating through some of the more difficult passages.

As I have visited parishioners in the hospital or in their homes, it has always made me smile to hear that one or two St. Elizabeth’s parishioners had “just left”; or to have these parishioners show me cards that they have received from members of St. Elizabeth’s. Thank you for all of your “tangible expressions” of love as we all work in the building up of the Body of Christ.

Many thanks to all who have helped in the parish office with all sorts of administrative needs from answering the phones and serving as the first point of contact for people calling St. Elizabeth’s, to coordinating schedules for our various ministries.

Mother Teresa said that “kind words can be short and easy to speak but their echoes are truly endless”. I would love to eloquently rework that quote to include “simple words and acts of love” which create endless echoes.... Something to work on... But in the meantime, let me simply say... Thank you for all of your words and acts of love – simple and grand – for others. Thank you for all of your “tangible expressions” of love and support for others. Thank you for serving as God-bearers. As our Presiding Bishop reminds us, there is always a great need to serve in the world as “incarnate reminders of the presence of God, ‘God with skin on’...” May we all continue to support each other not only as we navigate through life’s difficult passages, but as we grow in our faith and relationship with God.

The Rev. Joan F. Conley
Clergy Associate