Dear Padre Pio Parish Family Group Member,

Imagine waking up this morning with only the things you thanked God for the day before. What would your life look like? What things and people would you still have in your life? I am thankful that God has called us to work together in His field to expand His Kingdom by our faithful discipleship and has called us to invite others to follow Him along the path of discipleship. I am thankful that I can celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at each of our five altars in our five beautiful and unique churches.

Gratitude is central to our life in Christ. In fact, even the word Eucharist means gratitude. At the Mass, in gratitude, we open our hearts to God’s love and mercy. In the Eucharist, Jesus, in gratitude for our yes to Him, pours out His very self into our being through the bread and water that have been transformed into His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Mass has the ability to transform our lives, our families, and our relationships. Gratitude is an important attribute of a disciple of Jesus Christ.

When we cultivate the gift of gratitude in our lives, we become filled with a joy that radiates God’s love from within and inspires and influences the world around us. As your pastor, I want nothing more than for you to experience the joy that Jesus promises, a joy that is *full and complete*. In addition to time in prayer, another way to cultivate the gift of gratitude is through our proper stewardship of the gifts of time, talent, and treasure that God has given us for our benefit and the benefit of others.

As you reflect on your contributions to the life of our parish in the past, I ask you to pray, asking God what He wants it to be in the future. I invite you to complete and return the enclosed Prayer, Participation, and Generosity Intention form to renew your commitment to stewardship. You can mail it back to 422 East 4th Street or drop it in the collection basket this Sunday. Prayerfully consider how you might spend more time with God and how you might be involved in our parish community this year. Finally, consider proportionate giving this year, that is, giving a percentage of your income as an authentic “tithe” toward our shared mission to make disciples.

Please consider what amount you would like to give to our Sunday/ Holy Day Giving, Parish Annual Appeal, and the Archdiocese Annual Appeal. Perhaps you could tithe in the following proportions: 5% to Sunday/Holy Days, 3% to our Parish Annual Appeal\*, and 2% to our Archdiocese Annual Appeal.

I am truly blessed to walk alongside you and Jesus. I am excited to see what miracles the Lord plans to work through us, with us, and in us.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Father Walter L. Nolte

*Enclosures: Prayer, Participation & Generosity Intention Form / My Catholic Giving Guide*