

Dear Clergy & Wardens,

Times are tough. We are in the midst of the worst economic crisis to arise in many decades. It is the equivalent of the hundred year flood. And, like a mighty flood, there is much that is out of our control, many things that we cannot impact or change.

So, if we are to find our way through, it is vital that we **focus attention on things we can impact**, can change, places where we can make a difference. Most of the areas we can impact lie within how we approach our own lives, on a daily basis.

We can **remember what matters most to us**: our families, our loved ones, people in our communities. We can look after our physical health, looking at habits such as how we eat, sleep, and exercise. We can deepen our spiritual lives, taking a fresh look at our relationship with God, renewing our efforts to understand Him and what it is He calls us to do. We can give back to those who are in need, because, though our own problems might be great, there are families whose problems are even greater.


And, **we can look after our own financial well-being**. We can take the time to understand the financial side to our lives, so that we can learn to make the best possible uses of our own resources, whatever they might be.

That being said, last year Domestic Bank was tasked with giving back to the community after having been involved with some questionable lending practices. The Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island was the recipient of some of those funds. In January Bishop Wolf asked me if I would get together a Task Force with the goal of providing **Financial Wellness training to members of our community**. I was extremely fortunate to recruit an excellent team. We have been working diligently on getting a curriculum together. We have chosen three modules from the FDIC Money Matters program. We also have a pamphlet from the National Church that we will be using to encourage faithful stewardship.

Now we are hoping to recruit trainers. That's where you come in. We would like to get the word out to the various parishes that we are looking for individuals who would be interested in doing some teaching. Training will be provided. Our goal is to approach the entire diocese by deaneries. We will be starting the classes in the fall. In addition to recruiting trainers we are looking for churches who would be interested in hosting a class. We would need someone there to open and close the building for us.

If you know of anyone in your parish that may be interested in helping by becoming a trainer please contact me at (401) 941-8858 or email me at krunner48@aol.com. If you are willing to allow us to hold classes at your parish, please let me know. Any assistance you can give us in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks in advance,


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