

Helping Where She's Needed



Ask anyone who's been around St. Leo's for any amount of time and you'll be told that God often works in surprising and unexpected ways here. That's certainly true of the Treasure Chest, the parish's monthly fund raising project.

After decreasing revenue, difficulty getting workers, and a robbery at closing time, St. Leo's discontinued its festivals and then pastor Father Norman Lagenbrunner started the Treasure Chest, a monthly funding raising project.

Enter God's surprise. Marianne Brater was grateful for Father Norm's previous help with a family problem and so she said "Yes" to the bulletin request for someone to replace Carol Swift who had been handling the Treasure Chest. That was in 1990—and she's been doing it ever since. A \$5 monthly Treasure Chest raffle ticket may result in winning \$100! Sometimes tickets match more than once a month. It's a new kind of math where \$5 can equal \$100 or more each month.

Managing the Treasure Chest is a "behind the scenes" kind of job that requires a lot of administration, mailing and accounting. Marianne is glad to do the work but says that

for the Treasure Chest to continue to thrive she needs a lot more sellers and people to buy tickets. Many of the long-time sellers have died and others haven't taken their place, Bobbie Brockman currently is top salesperson and the Bruser and Richardson families have long been strong supporters.

"Five dollars a month is a small amount to help support the ministries at St. Leo's," Marianne says, "and with the holidays coming up, Treasure Chest tickets make great stocking stuffers." They're also great surprises to enclose with cards or letters at *any* time of the year.

Marianne's faith has always been a grounding force in her life. She's been an associate with the Sisters of Charity since 1992. She had been educated by Ursuline and Mercy Sisters and came to know the Sisters of Charity only after attending a workshop on dreams at the motherhouse that was advertised in the St. Leo bulletin. She got to know the sisters and their mission and decided to become an associate and says she has benefitted from the spirituality and fellowship.

She has long been involved in caring for the environment. She currently works with the Western Wild Life Corridor project, now as the one answering and responding to phone calls. Previously she helped clearing a hillside, but arthritis has slowed her down. She's excited that the project has recently received 30 acres of land off South Road where the group hopes to develop a nature center.

Though she's a mother of five, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Marianne Brater certainly isn't retiring to a rocking chair. She's got lots of projects going on—and she's always open to God's surprises.

—Angela Anno, Pastoral Associate (photo by Angela Anno)