



*Denise and Peter Kreckel, CMD supporters  
and parishioners of St. Matthew Church, Tyrone*

## **“CHRIST’S MESSAGE IS TO TAKE CARE OF OUR NEIGHBORS.”**

In 1950 Peter Kreckel’s grandfather was a widower raising eight children when he was asked to donate money for the construction for the new parochial school. Instead, the blacksmith offered his talent to sharpen the workers’ chisels, an essential tool in their toolbox.

“My grandfather gave what he could, and it made a difference,” said Peter, who, along with his wife, Denise, are longtime area pharmacists. “We all have gifts, the things that we are capable of giving.

I can’t sharpen a chisel, but I can earn money to help support what Christ is asking me to do.”

Growing up, Peter said, he often passed the school – imagining his grandfather at work and reflecting upon the enormous contribution he made to his Catholic faith. It is a lesson that has continued to resonate with him and Denise. “We need to help all the people of our faith and even those who are not,” said Denise. “Christ’s message is to take care of our neighbors.”

Through her work as a pharmacist and at Centre Volunteers in Medicine, Denise said she sees people suffering physically, emotionally, and spiritually every day. “People in our community are falling through the cracks. Many of them are homeless, and many can’t speak English. As faithful Catholics, we need to help one another in whatever way we can.”

Added Peter, “This is our Church. The Church of Mother Teresa and John Paul II. It has an amazing history of faith, hope, and charity. We are called upon to give what we can, and it needs everyone’s support.”