



INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

PARISH STEWARDSHIP NEWSLETTER

June 2010

ICSC Committee for Parish Stewardship Education and Services
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Do you have material you'd like to submit for this newsletter? If so, please email it to ParishStewardship@catholicstewardship.org. All submittals are gratefully appreciated, though we can't promise that all will be published.

A Stewardship Prayer

Lord,

You give us the gift of summer, not as a break from you or stewardship of your gifts,

But as challenge for us to be stewards of your gifts in a different way.

As we enjoy the gifts of longer days and nice weather,

Help us to consider as to how we might use those gifts to further build up your kingdom, And also to regularly give you thanks for all your wonderful generosity!

We ask this in your name.

Amen.

ICSC 2010 San Diego Conference Brochure is now available



*The biggest (and most outstanding!) gathering of stewardship experts sharing their experiences, enthusiasm, energy, and ideas, via presentations, networking, exhibits
September 19-22, San Diego, CA*

http://www.catholicstewardship.org/PDF/2010_ac_reg_broc.pdf

<https://www.catholicstewardship.org/Conference/register.cfm?ConferenceID=29>

Registration options can help your parish to budget the conference into both this fiscal year and next or entirely in the next fiscal year if necessary. Don't hesitate to contact the ICSC office with questions or for more information.

For those who worry about the bottom line, regardless of how you budget it, you will definitely leave the conference with ideas that pay for themselves many times over in terms of increased parish income and increased volunteers.

Save The Date for the next revamped ICSC Parish Stewardship Institutes

November 1-3, St. Meinrad, IN

STEWARDSHIP AND THE SUNDAY READINGS

John Baumann M.Div.

(Responsible for guiding the development of stewardship at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Seattle. John, a *Certified Pastoral Counselor*, divides his time between parish ministry and a private clinical practice and offers retreats and workshops.)



June 6th (from Luke's Gospel)

“They all ate and were satisfied. And when the leftover fragments were picked up, they filled twelve wicker baskets.” The crowds that gathered were fed. Jesus asked the disciples to gather the crowds into smaller groups of about fifty and it is in these smaller groups that people were fed. Gathering parish members into smaller groups to carry out the ministry of the church is a way stewardship feeds the soul and builds community.

June 13th (from Luke's Gospel)

“Accompanying him were...Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, Susanna, and many others who provided for them out of their resources.” Recognizing the abundance of God's love, compassion, and forgiveness offered through and by Jesus an intentional community forms to support the ministry of Jesus with their resources. The message of stewardship is about being intentional in our participation in parish, community and family life. It is about supporting all of these in some way with our resources of time, talent and treasure.

June 20th (from Luke's Gospel)

“For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.” The challenge of stewardship is found in the *giving up*. Giving up the urge to hold on to our

time, or talent, or treasure. Giving up the desire to control how these are used to support parish life and ministry. The comfort and grace of God experienced through stewardship comes from the very same *giving up*.

June 27th (from Letter to Galatians)

“For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, *You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*” Paul repeats the very words used by Jesus about loving neighbor. The whole of stewardship is fulfilled in living out this command to love neighbor as yourself. Said another way, embracing stewardship as a way of life, leads to living this great commandment. Embracing stewardship and loving your neighbor as yourself are mutually fulfilling.

Please feel free to reprint these bulletin notes in your bulletin.

Also, on the next page is a template bulletin insert that you may reprint for your parish bulletin. This series is designed to give parents and children – separately and together – a greater understanding of stewardship and what it means to be a steward.

The series gives a simple quote from the US Bishops Pastoral Letter on Stewardship, and then suggests practical ways to appreciate and live stewardship.

NOTES OF INTEREST

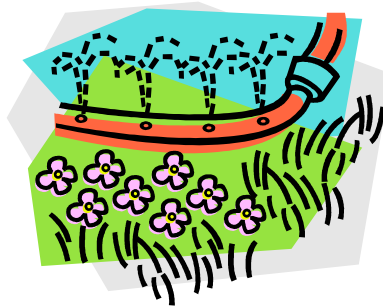
Check out a recent Wall Street Journal article on Tithing at:
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704671904575193933487214328.html?KEYWORDS=tithing>

Growing Stewards - More than Giving Money and Time

This page is part of series designed to give parents and children – separately and together – a greater understanding of stewardship and what it means to be a steward.

From the US Bishops Pastoral Letter *Stewardship, A Disciples Response*

Auxiliary Bishop of Green Bay, Robert Morneau, one of the apostles of stewardship in North America, has spoken of his '12 gardens of stewardship'. He has suggested that there are (at least) 12 different areas in our lives in which we can cultivate stewardship including being a good citizen, taking care of ourselves, consuming 'good' TV/movies/literature, being a good family member, etc. His point is that stewardship of all that God has given us extends far beyond just giving time and money to the Church & charity.



For Parents

Think of all the ways that you are a good steward beyond giving money and time. The time you give to being a good parent (and becoming a better one), the participation in your local community, staying healthy (like exercising, getting a flu shot, or eating right), etc. Pat yourself on the back for those ways you are a good steward.

Living Stewardship Together

When you get a chance, help your children to see the things you do (taking care of the environment, giving to charity, helping out your neighbors or family) as good stewardship.

For Children

Remember that taking care of the planet, reading good books, praying regularly, being good to your friends, eating healthy food, are all ways of being a good steward.

Forming Good Stewards...

The following was written by **Deacon Jerry Martinez of the Archdiocese of New Orleans** who reminds us that "Good stewards are formed by other good stewards!" Useful in your parish bulletin, this material is also helpful for homilists

June 6, 2010

Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

"... He said the blessing over them, broke them, and gave them to the disciples to give to the crowd."

Luke 9:11b - 17

None of the Gospels tell the exact details of how four or five thousand men, plus women and children, are fed with a few loaves and fish. The Church teaches us that the miracle of the multiplication of loaves and fishes was a prefiguration of the Body and Blood of Jesus. But let us consider another miracle, just as great. Jesus knew the Semitic ethic that required people to share with others. He knew people carried food and wine under their garments, but refrained from taking it out for fear others had brought their own. Note that Jesus blessed the loaves and fish and gave them away. *He did not keep any for himself.* Did people see *his generous act and decide to share what they had with one another?* In the context of God's gifts to us of *reason and free will* - the ability to choose *to be generous or not to be generous*, what is the greater miracle: multiplication of loaves and fish, or *multiplication of generous hearts?* Which makes us a greater witness to the Real Presence of the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Eucharist?

June 13, 2010

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

"The one, I suppose, whose larger debt is forgiven"

Luke 7:36-8:3

Kenny Rogers sings a Country Western Song, "*Oh Lord it is hard to be humble when you are perfect in every way.*" Could it be our theme song? Is the fact that we might be mistaken or wrong pretty far down on our list of possibilities? And we are proud of that? The ability to admit that we are in error or done evil does not come easy. For many people, the three most difficult words are not "*I love you,*" but "*I am wrong*" and "*I am sorry.*" And there is the always difficult "*I forgive you!*" Contrary to the song by Kenny Rogers, true humility is the willingness to say, "*I am wrong!*" and "*I am sorry!*" when necessary. And sometimes the best way we can give is to forgive. And the more we feel we have to forgive, the more we need to give. God gave us all that we have and are. Have we used all that God gave us as he intended? If not, have we said *I am wrong* and *I am sorry*? Our God is an awesome God. He wants to say, *I forgive you!* in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. When was the last time we took advantage of that blessed Sacrament? Well, that's too long!

June 20, 2010

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"But who do you say that I am?" Luke 9:18-24

Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" They respond with several names or possibilities. Then Jesus asks, "But who do you say that I am?" Now the question is personal. To answer they must reveal what is in their heart and head. Their answer will tell Jesus how they feel about him. Peter says: "You are the Christ of God." That took great faith and courage. The implications were enormous; Jesus waste no time in bluntly telling them that the "Christ of God" was going to suffer; be rejected by the authorities; killed and rise on the third day." Jesus leaves nothing to the imagination. Then he adds what his closest friends were most afraid to hear: "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow me." We may be relieved that we were not present with Jesus two thousand years ago. But Jesus is present with us today - in the Eucharist; in his Church. He asks each of us, "Who do you say that I am?" How do we answer him? Are we willing to accept the consequences?

June 27, 2010

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God."

Luke 9:51-62

When Elijah calls to Elisha, he hesitated, "Let me kiss my father and mother goodbye." Elijah does not prevent him. Then Elisha kills the team of oxen he was driving, uses the wood of the plow to build a fire to burn their flesh and distributes it to the people and follows Elijah. He detaches himself from everything he previously depended on. Paul tells us, "For freedom Christ set us free." Christ teaches us to be free from attachment to things of this world. This freedom is not for selfish pursuits, but "to serve one another in love." Jesus calls us to follow him, but we sometimes hesitate. If we start to follow Jesus but let other attachments distract us, we will never be free to discern God's will for us and respond in freedom to God for all that he has given to us. What are the attachments in our life that keep us from the true freedom that allows us to follow Christ, without hesitation? Make a list. Use the back of the page and more sheets, if necessary.

**On the Spiritual Journey –Right vs. Privilege
by E. Jane Rutter, Director of Stewardship,
Diocese of Jefferson City, MO**

When did it become a “right” for

- ...a woman to discard the life growing inside her?
- ...companies to cheat their employees out of just wages?
- ...individuals to default on paying for their purchases?
- ...the few to have the power to discard God from our language and symbols?
- ...able people who choose not to work to receive compensation?
- ...everybody to be treated equally despite our unique differences?
- ...children to sue their parents at will?

We are becoming a nation without privileges governed by people whose definition of right is akin to the toddler’s declaration that all is “mine.” Right becomes understood as “what I deserve simply for being.” When we blindly believe that we deserve everything, rather than have the privilege to earn our way in the world, we are regressing into thinking like two-year-olds.

Be mindful that the Doctrine of Rights is not bound by politics or what parties are in office throughout our beloved land. The doctrine is widespread, a litany spoken in our homes, universities, boardrooms, entertainment industries, and nonprofit organizations. Through years of subliminal marketing, we the people have been fed and have swallowed the false belief that we deserve to have whatever we want simply because we are.

This pabulum of rights we are adopting is wrong because it denies that we have souls and it denies the existence of God. The Doctrine of Rights only works by convincing us that our lives have no purpose beyond self-satisfaction, truth is situational, and human life has no greater value or span than does a blade of grass.

As Christians, we must ask, “When did we lose the sense of privilege (and awe) for ...the vocation of parenthood?

- ...being made in the image of God as male or female?
- ...being responsible for those whom we employ?
- ...living within our means?
- ...being a citizen of a nation founded on Christian principles?
- ...having the freedom to worship and pray?
- ...the opportunity to choose the career path of our choice?
- ...being raised in families by loving mothers and fathers?”

It is only when we accept the reality and truth of God that we realize our lives are a privilege bestowed on us and that we have a responsibility to grow and to give back. We grow by accepting God’s challenge to love and to serve others instead of ourselves. When we turn our hearts to God, we aspire to become perfect in His image. When we turn our hearts to God, we see everything before us – whether sparse or bountiful – as a gift and respond to life with awe; Awe, wonder, amazement.

The Christian life is not one of fear. While the tribulations of society and culture wax and wane with the tide, planted firmly in Christ, our lives will continue to resound with deep-seated joy. As stewards, we are responsible for raising our voices to proclaim God’s message that life itself is a gift and a privilege.

Moment by moment, day after day we must go out into the world and stand up against the Doctrine of Rights culture that strips everyone of his/her soul and spirit. We do this not as angry warriors, but by modeling Christ. We uphold family as the foundation of society, marriage as a union between man and woman, life beginning at conception, caring for our neighbor, growing our talents and sharing the fruits of our labor. We place God at the helm and center of all our beliefs and actions.

People will convert when they realize that pursuing their rights leads to dissatisfaction while holding life as a privilege leads to joy that is eternal.

And so I pray: Dear God, strengthen my resolve to be Your steward, to be awed by life and a witness to the joy You bring.

ICSC Parish Stewardship Awards

Now is the time to apply for the ICSC Parish Stewardship Awards!

The Archbishop Murphy Parish Stewardship Award for outstanding long term work in stewardship – find application info here: <http://catholicstewardship.org/en/introduction/awards.cfm>

Other Parish Promotion Awards (Video, Capital Campaign, Materials) for parishes that have best promoted the theology of stewardship during the year through Video, Materials (of any sort) and Capital Campaigns.

http://www.catholicstewardship.org/PDF/Parish_Stewardship_Promotional_Awards.pdf

Parish Stewardship Recognition (for any parish that meets certain criteria demonstrating how they promote the practice of stewardship in several different areas):

<http://www.catholicstewardship.org/PDF/Parish%20Recognition%202009.pdf>

Deadline this year is EXTENDED to June 30th. (Even though the forms say '2009' they are still applicable for this year, 2010, so please use them.)

We encourage all ICSC parishes to consider applying for these awards!