

Stewardship: A Disciple's Response

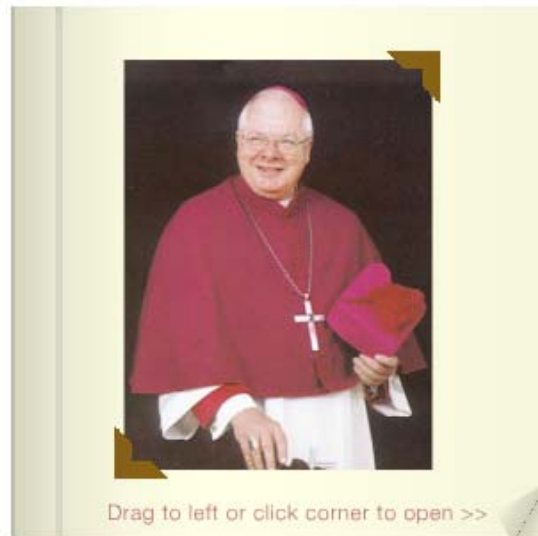
A message from Archbishop James P. Keleher, Episcopal Moderator

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Dear International Catholic Stewards,
Welcome, dear sisters and brothers,
to our annual report on the activities
of the International Catholic
Stewardship Council and its steadfast
role in the growth of the stewardship
movement throughout the Church.



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As Pope Benedict XVI reminded us this year in his first encyclical letter:

"In the Church's Liturgy, in her prayer, in the living community of believers, we experience the love of God, we perceive his presence and we thus learn to recognize that presence in our daily lives. He has loved us first and he continues to do so; we too, then, can respond with love."

—Pope Benedict XVI, God is Love, 17



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We Respond in Love

Stewardship is a way of life that recognizes the presence and gifts of the Lord among us, and then responds in love to this wonder with a generous heart. Brothers and sisters, this is the abundant life of the Church we are called to bring out into the world! This is work of ICSC.



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"Stewardship blossoms from a heart that loves the Lord and gratefully seeks to respond to the many blessings received. Through the conferences, publications and many initiatives undertaken by ICSC, you are guided into this ongoing spiritual journey of generosity and giving of self."

—Alejandra Keen von Wuthenau, Economa,
Fraternita Mariana della Riconciliazione, ICSC
Board Representative for Region XIX

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The Annual Gathering

In 2005, 1500 stewards from all over the globe gathered for our annual conference in San Francisco, the first ever on the West Coast. This is the pivotal event of the year for ICSC, and quite frankly, we are not content even with that wonderful big number of attendees. The work of stewardship is an urgent work! It is the work of pastors, directors of religious education and school principals. It is the work of religious women and men, and the many lay women and men who are

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**stewarding their gifts out in the world.
All can benefit from a deeper experience
of stewardship offered at the conference
and other ICSC events.**

*"ICSC has accomplished so much to help
make stewardship a reality in our parishes but
we have so much more to do as we continue
this important work of the Church."*

—Jim Kelley, Director of Development,
Diocese of Charlotte in North Carolina

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Teaching Stewardship

ICSC's excellent Stewardship Institutes were held once again in Florida and California, with a new session in Canada last Spring. As episcopal moderator and teacher, I can't overemphasize the value of this opportunity for in-depth stewardship formation. It's a wonderful week together with the Lord.

We have daily Mass, opportunity for the Sacrament of Penance, teaching sessions, time for reflection and hearty meals in communion with one another. Our participants come back refreshed in body and soul, armed with the tools necessary to bring stewardship to their parishes, dioceses and other organizations.

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Growing Locally from Our Experience

Regional conferences, meetings and stewardship days are also a big part of the work of ICSC and its members. These important events allow us to share our stewardship lives together. Since a steward's life is not a competitive life, we offer our knowledge, materials and other gifts between regions and increasingly in new areas of the world. If something is working well in one part of Christ's Church, all can and should benefit and rejoice!

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"ICSC is truly international! Conducting the first Stewardship Institute in Australia this year was a huge task. ICSC's encouragement and quick turn-around with the supply of resources certainly helped our Stewardship efforts. We certainly encourage our parishes to take up membership of ICSC and utilize the spiritual resourcefulness of the ICSC website. ICSC brings together a wealth of Stewardship knowledge which can be accessed and shared around the globe. Without ICSC Conferences and Institutes - Australia would never have gotten the Stewardship message - Thank you ICSC!"

—Tony Sanderson (Australia)



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International Focus

ICSC's Director of Formation Fr. Dan Mahon visited new friends in the Diocese of Wollagong, Australia, for a first-ever stewardship seminar on those shores. This international focus will continue in October 2006 with the keynote address of Cardinal Francis Arinze, archbishop of Velletri-Segni at our annual conference in Boston, Massachusetts. Stewardship as a way of life was never meant to be just local, but also global and eternal!



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"ICSC has been a blessing to me personally. It has helped me reflect on my own gifts and on the ways I need to use those gifts to carry out the ' Will of God ' in my life. It has also been a tremendous gift to our Archdiocese as we translate the message of Stewardship to the people of the Archdiocese of Omaha. It has been the catalysis for us to work with other Dioceses throughout the world as we carry out our mission of Stewardship."

—Judy Tamisiea, CFRE, Executive Director of
Stewardship and Development, Archdiocese of
Omaha, Nebraska

Stewardship Honors

Each year, ICSC recognizes individuals and parishes that exemplify stewardship as a way of life. These are great examples of why every Catholic should have a steward's heart and every parish and diocese should belong to ICSC.

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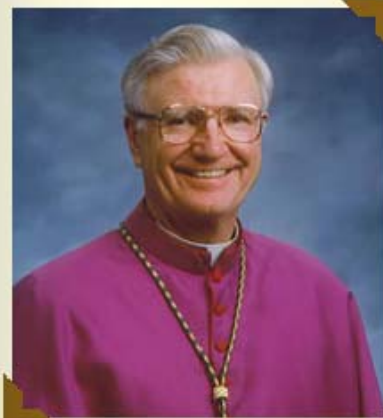
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The Christian Stewardship Award

Presented annually in recognition of a person or persons who have given outstanding service on behalf of stewardship, the Christian Stewardship Award winner for 2006 is:

Bishop Sylvester Ryan

[Click Here for a Short Story About this Winner](#)



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The Bishop William G. Connare Award

This award is presented in memory of Bishop Connare's leadership as Episcopal Moderator of ICSC from 1975 to 1990. It is awarded every four years to a Diocesan Director in recognition for long and distinguished service. The winner for 2006 is:

Mary Kelly, Archdiocese of Toronto, Ontario, Canada

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The Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy Award

This award is presented to a parish for its outstanding work in stewardship. Archbishop Murphy was an ardent supporter of ICSC and this award is a fitting tribute to his memory. The award winner in 2006 is:

Blessed Trinity Parish, Ocala, Florida

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The Lord's Hand

The Spirit moves where he will, says the Lord (cf. Jn 3:8)! This coming year, the Board of Directors and I will take several days to focus our energies on where ICSC has been and where the Holy Spirit is leading us into the future. My dear friend and Board Chair Msgr. Michael Corona will be shepherding us through this important task. We see the Lord's hand in the discernment of our Secretary General,

Matthew R. Paratore, who has been accepted as a candidate for the priesthood in the Diocese of Metuchen, New Jersey. Matt's vocation is a sign for us of the Father's benediction and his prompting us now toward a new fruitfulness. Since 1987, Matt has kept us steadfastly focused on an authentic stewardship formation through ICSC's publications and events. Now is the time for an even greater implementation, especially in parish life.

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Toward a New Fruitfulness

In addition to a four-day strategic planning session in Spring 2007, the Board is also working on a number of initiatives to serve ICSC members. A new publication called, "Keeping Stewardship Alive: Proven Stewardship Ideas" will be available for sale beginning in Fall 2006, thanks to the generous assistance of our friends from Our Sunday Visitor. Our best-selling Stewardship Rosary booklet will be reprinted this year in both English

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and Spanish and include Pope John Paul II's beautiful Mysteries of Light. Finally, plans continue for our fourth International Catholic Quinquennial Stewardship Seminar, 19-23 May 2008 in Rome, Italy.

Brothers and sisters, the Lord is calling us to an even greater awareness of all we've been given through him, with him and in him! Let us ask our Blessed Lady, the Immaculate Conception, our patroness and guide, for her constant maternal attention.

Devotedly yours in Christ, the Lord,

The Most Reverend James P. Keleher

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