



INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

PARISH STEWARDSHIP NEWSLETTER

July, 2010

ICSC Committee for Parish Stewardship Education and Services
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Do you have material you would like to submit for inclusion in our next newsletter? If so, please email it to ParishStewardship@catholicstewardship.org. All submittals are gratefully received, although we cannot promise that all will be published.

ICSC Parish Stewardship Institute

November 1-3, St. Meinrad, IN
Call ICSC at 800-352-3452 for details.



A Stewardship Prayer for Hard Times

*Lord, help me to be grateful
for all the small things you give to me,
especially when life is challenging.
Help me to be grateful
for all the great, majestic things you give me,
especially when life is so busy.
Help me to be grateful
for all the beautiful things you give me,
especially when life seems dark and gloomy.
Help me to be grateful
for all the sufferings you give me,
especially when my life seems separated
from you.
Help me to be grateful
for all the understandings you give me,
especially when life seems so difficult to
comprehend.
Help me to be grateful
for all the love you give me,
especially when life seems so hard.
Lord, help me to trust you
through this dark time to the Light.*

Amen.

2010 ICSC Conference

September 19-22, San Diego, CA

Be a part of this international gathering of stewardship practitioners, sharing their experiences, enthusiasm, energy, and ideas, through presentations, networking, exhibits, liturgy and more... Money tight this year? Budget the conference into this fiscal year, next fiscal year, or some in each. Contact the ICSC office for more information. It's worth it! Participants leave this conference with ideas that re-pay the conference cost many times over in terms of

increased participation and enhanced offertory income. The conference brochure is available online:

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

STEWARDSHIP AND THE SUNDAY READINGS

by John Baumann, M.Div.
Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Archdiocese of Seattle



July 4 – from Isaiah

“As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; in Jerusalem you shall find comfort.” A new way of being community is proclaimed in the closing chapters of the Book of Isaiah: a way that includes all who seek to participate and serve. A new way of forming and being in community is also proclaimed through the message of stewardship. We are invited to offer the gifts with which we have been blessed and join with others in shaping them to build parish and community.

July 11 – from Deuteronomy

“No, it is something very near to you, already in your mouths and in your hearts; you have only to carry it out.” Moses is imploring those he led out of Egypt to return to God with all their heart and soul. He reminds them that the way to do this is not found in some distant or far-off place. So it is with stewardship. It is already in our mouths and in our hearts; we have only to carry it out.

July 18 – from the Letter to the Colossians

“...I am a minister in accordance with God’s stewardship given to me to bring to completion for you the word of God...” The ministry of proclaiming and teaching, blessing and forgiving – the very ministry of Paul – continues to come to us. We are called to respond as we go in peace from Mass to love and serve the Lord. Stewardship presents a unique way to love and serve the Lord not so much in what we do, but rather in how we do it. We have the opportunity to live the very same stewardship God gave to Paul in our own unique and wonderful way.

July 25 – from Luke’s Gospel

“When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.” The disciples ask Jesus to teach them to pray and he does. We join those first disciples and every person who has ever uttered the words of the Lord’s Prayer each time we offer this prayer. We honor God (hallowed be your name) and ask that God’s kingdom be manifested among us (your kingdom come). Through stewardship, God provides the way to both live and experience this prayer.

Tom Cullinan, of St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, Omaha, asks:

Do you know the difference between charity and philanthropy?

We don’t talk about either one all that often, so the terms can be confusing. Some people even use the words interchangeably, yet they are not the same at all. Knowing the difference may affect how you approach stewardship in your life or whether you practice good stewardship at all. The difference is grounded in history and in faith, and the answer might just unlock the potential to be a good steward of God’s many gifts.

The concept of charity finds its source in both Jewish and Christian tradition. Charity springs from personal service and connecting with others, performing direct and compassionate acts that relate to practicing our faith. Philanthropy, on the other hand, seeks to repair the root causes of society’s problems.

Philanthropy can be either religious or secular. Instead of simply helping those in need, philanthropy tries to reform society. Some people go so far as to claim that philanthropy can make charity unnecessary.

Charity and philanthropy, then, are polar opposites and yet they also coexist well. How is that possible? Think of doctors who take the Hippocratic Oath. They are committed to relieve pain and suffering, and also to cure disease. Often they do both, yet sometimes doctors have to choose one over the other. These dual humanitarian traditions of charity and philanthropy sometimes come together, and sometimes do not. The reason is simple: One is founded on faithful compassion and the other on technical competence.

So, are you charitable or merely a philanthropist? Either way, if your generosity is a faith response to God’s gifts, then you are on a path of good stewardship.

Discerning Vocation

(This page is part of series developed by Scott Bader, Director of Parish Stewardship, Archdiocese of Seattle, to give parents and children – separately and together – a greater understanding of stewardship and what it means to be a good steward.)

From the US Bishops Pastoral Letter, *Stewardship, A Disciple's Response*

Jesus calls us individually, by name. Each one of us has a personal vocation. God intends each one of us to play a unique role in carrying out the divine plan. The challenge then is to understand our role – our vocation – and to respond generously to this call from God. Becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ leads naturally to the practice of stewardship. God calls each of us to be stewards of our personal vocations.

For Parents

Because we are baptized, we are called to be disciples – to live out our discipleship every day. This is the common vocation of all Christians. Have you ever considered what you are doing – being a parent, holding a particular job – as something God has called you to? Can you look back on your life and see God's hand at work leading you to this point in your life?

Living Stewardship Together

Parents, share with your children how what you are doing reflects the call you have received from God. Children, share with your parents where you think God is calling you in your life.



For Children

A “vocation” isn’t just for priests and sisters! God is quietly calling all of us – you, too! – to a vocation, a specific job or way of life. What talents has God given you? What are you good at? What is God calling you to do and be today? Ask Him!

*“Calling all disciples! Calling all disciples!
Please report to the Lord, immediately!”*

Forming Good Stewards...

by Dn. Jerry Martinez, J.D., M.Th.

Archdiocese of New Orleans

July 4 – 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“The seventy-two returned, rejoicing, and said, ‘Lord, even demons are subject to us because of your name.’” Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

The seventy-two disciples that Jesus sent in thirty-six directions were amazed at their success. Did they really have faith in Jesus as they left on their mission? We can almost hear them grumbling, “He is sending us like lambs among wolves with no money, no provisions, no sandals, and we cannot even greet people on the way. Does he expect us to work miracles?” But off they went. And they performed miracles. Despite their doubts, they had faith in Jesus and they were able to do great things because of their faith. When we feel called to step out in faith to imitate Jesus in our world, do we have doubts? Do we fail to act because of our doubts? Or do we act, despite our doubts, amazed at what we can accomplish when we have faith in Jesus? As a result of our Baptism, it is our responsibility to nurture our faith in Jesus so we can constantly be amazed at what we can accomplish in His name.

July 11 – 15th Sunday of Ordinary Time

“Which one of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers’ victim?”

He answered, “The one who treated him with mercy.”
Luke 10:25-37

“Rabbi, why do Jews always answer a question with a question?” The rabbi responded, “And why shouldn’t we?” Jesus is a Jew. When the scholar of the (Jewish) law asked him, “Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus answered with a question, “What is written in the law?” The scholar quotes *Deuteronomy 6:5 You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, being, strength and mind* and *Leviticus 19:19 ...and your neighbor as yourself*. The scholar knew the law. It had been handed down by Moses. But the scholar (a lawyer) looks for a loophole: “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus answers this question with the story of the Good Samaritan, then ask, “Which one, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robber’s victim?” The scholar answers, “The one who treated him with mercy.” The scholar had no other choice. If we are true believers in Jesus, neither do we. Jesus challenges us to want for our neighbor what we want ourselves. And everyone is our neighbor, no matter how unlovable they may be.

July 18 – 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things.” Luke 10:38-42

Martha is doing what was expected of a good Jewish woman of her day – preparing food for her family and guest. Her sister Mary, also a good Jewish woman, plops

herself down at the feet of Jesus and absorbs every word He says. Martha finally confronts Jesus, “Lord, make her help me!” Jesus knows that Martha is not doing anything wrong. She is doing what she believes is expected of her. And she is doing it very well. Jesus suggest she should not be so concerned about what others expect of her, but should spend time to discern what God expects of her. What God expects of us can be quite different than what the world expects of us. We discern God’s will for us in prayer – prayer that is not about what we say to God, but about what we are willing to hear from God. Fr. Hacker Fagot, S.J. [d. January 5, 2010] admits that “Too often my prayer is not *God, thy will be done!* but *God, thy will be changed!*” Do we pray? What is our prayer?

July 25 – 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Lord, teach us to pray!” Luke 11:1-14

Abraham bargains to save Sodom. He starts out with fifty innocent people. God agrees. Obviously lacking confidence he will find fifty, he bargains God down to ten. He could not even find ten, so Sodom is destroyed. The Old Testament covenants were bargains with God. God always kept his part. The patriarchs and Israelites were not so faithful. The disciples saw Jesus as a person who was faithful to the Covenant and a man of prayer. They asked Him, “Lord, teach us to pray.” He teaches them the Our Father. Then He tells the stories of the persistent woman and fathers who give their children bread and eggs, not snakes and scorpions. Are we confident when we pray to God, Our Father in heaven, that His Kingdom, *not ours*, will come; that His will, *not ours*, be done; for our daily bread *not tomorrow’s or next year’s*; and to forgive our sins *as we forgive others*? Are we good stewards who are persistent in prayer *to learn God’s will*? If at first you don’t succeed, skydiving may not be your thing. Try prayer instead. *And keep trying!*

Check out this new book: Making Stewardship A Way of Life

That famous stewardship duo, our friends and colleagues. Fr. Andrew Kemberling and Mila Glodova of St. Thomas More Parish in Centennial, CO, have put their wisdom and experience into print, courtesy of Our Sunday Visitor. Their book, subtitled ‘*A Complete Guide for Catholic Parishes*,’ is a comprehensive guide to parish stewardship. This is definitely a good resource if you are starting out in Stewardship. Fun to read, this book is just like listening to Fr. Andrew and Mila speak! And it’s available online at www.osv.com.

- review by Scott Bader, Archdiocese of Seattle