



INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Education and Services Committee e-Bulletin • June 2009



San Damiano Retreat Center

Parish leaders who wish to discover new and creative ways to deepen their parishioners' commitment to prayer, service and support of their community should consider attending the ICSC Catholic Stewardship Institute. The Institute is the only one of its kind to offer such a comprehensive treatment of the concept of stewardship. Offered in a peaceful and prayerful setting of a Catholic retreat center, the Institute provides engaging and expert faculty with over 100 years of combined experience working with parishes and dioceses. Come and see how your parish can enhance its own journey of faith through the ICSC Catholic Stewardship Institute.

Hospitality and the Stewardship Parish

Adapted and excerpted from an article by Jim Lamm, Director of Stewardship & Development, St. Louis King of France Church, Austin, Texas

There is much talk in stewardship circles about how the practice of hospitality is part of the nature of being a stewardship parish. Hospitality does not simply mean providing coffee and donuts or selling breakfast tacos after Mass although welcoming strangers and fellow worshippers in this manner is an ideal way to exercise hospitality. A foundational aspect of hospitality includes greeting and treating all who enter the door of the church, rectory, parish office, classroom, or who call on the phone, with a genuine spirit of compassion and love; to receive others as



Those who come to the parish door or call the parish should be able to see the love of God in those who represent the parish; through their words, actions and, indeed, their very presence.

Christ would receive them. It should not matter if the visitor or caller is the bishop or a beggar. Those who come to the parish door or call the parish should be able to see the love of God in those who represent the parish; through their words, actions and, indeed, their very presence. Hospitality is not just the job of the ministers of hospitality or ushers. It is the obligation of every one associated with the parish, from the pastor to the groundskeeper to the parishioners who worship and give of their time at the parish. It is important for a parish community that considers itself a stewardship parish to reflect periodically on what it means to welcome each parishioner and visitor, be they strangers or not, as Christ would welcome them.



Newly
Designed

2009 Catholic Stewardship Institute

Join Us!

July 20 – 24, 2009

San Damiano Retreat Center • Danville, California

For more information visit www.catholicstewardship.org

A STEWARDSHIP SAINT FOR JUNE



Saint Anthony of Padua

St. Anthony of Padua is one of the most beloved and admired saints in the church. Because he was a prolific preacher and witness to the Gospel in his personal life, he is known as a great stewardship saint.

St. Anthony was born on the Feast of the Assumption in Lisbon, Portugal, in 1195 to a wealthy and educated family of the Portuguese nobility. He entered the Augustinian religious community at an early age where he devoted himself to the study of sacred scripture and Latin classics.

He joined the Franciscan Order when he was 26 years old and traveled tirelessly to preach what it meant to live

according to the Gospel. He is believed to have made as many as 400 trips to towns in both northern Italy and southern France.

However, St. Anthony saw that preaching was not enough to help people understand how to live according to the Gospel. He believed that he had to give witness to the Gospel by the way he lived his personal life. He adopted and maintained a simple lifestyle consistent with what he believed the Gospel was calling him to.

St. Anthony died in Padua, Italy, on June 13, 1231 at the age of 36. He was declared a saint (canonized) less than one year after his death. So simple, yet compelling and inspiring was St. Anthony's teaching of the Catholic faith that he was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius XII in 1946.

Best known for his patronage of seekers of lost items, St. Anthony is commonly referred to today as the "finder of lost articles." Few people know that he is the patron of many others causes including the poor and those who travel.

Gracious and loving God,
We praise you
for the gift of your love
made manifest in Your Son,
and for the gift of
Your Holy Spirit,

Give us the wisdom
to be good stewards
of our faith, our church
and of all those in need
of your loving care.

Teach us how to
respond generously,
with courage, prudence
and hope.

And guide us on our
pilgrim journey
With Your Son who lives
and reigns with You in the
Holy Spirit, one God,
forever and ever.

Amen



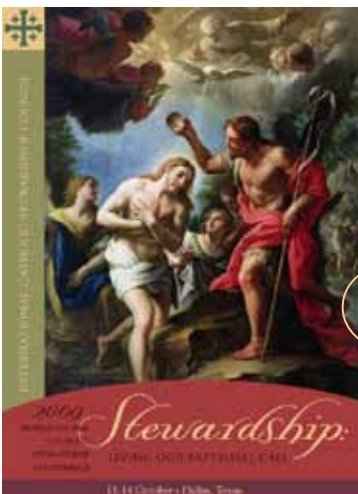
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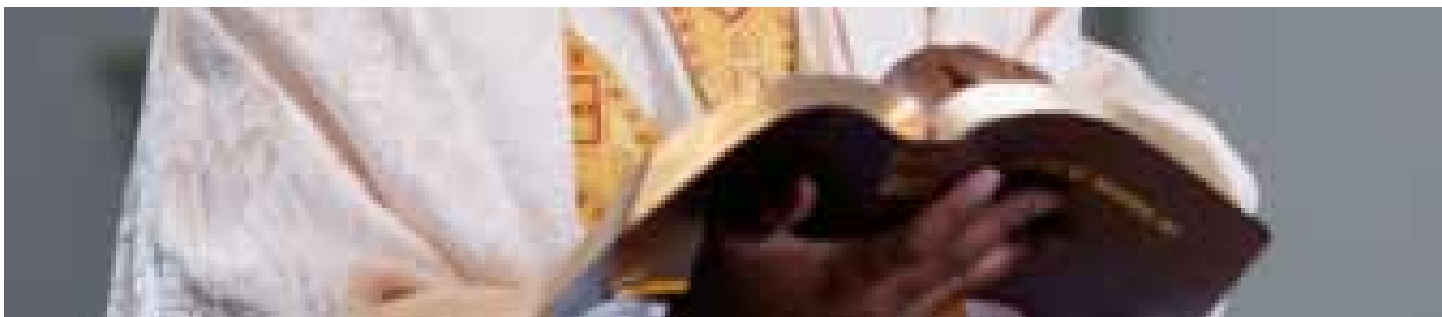
2009 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Stewardship:
LIVING OUR BAPTISMAL CALL

October 11-14, 2009
Hilton Anatole Hotel
Dallas, Texas

Visit www.catholicstewardship.org to register online





A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

For the weekend of June 6/7, 2009 Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

In today's Gospel and reading from the letter of St. Paul we hear of the gift of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In our devotional life we make the sign of the cross and recite the "Glory Be" as an expression of our faith as a Trinitarian people. But what does it mean for Christian stewards to accept in a practical way the experience of God in this three-fold gift? Is it a call to share our own life in community, with compassion and love, and to work for healing, justice, peace and unity? Is it an invitation to invite others into fellowship with us in the unity of the Father, Son and Spirit?

For the weekend of June 13/14, 2009 The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Today's Gospel reveals St. Mark's account of Jesus gathering his disciples for a last supper, revealing to them a new covenant established through his own sacrificial blood. Every time we participate in the Eucharist, we make a pledge to renew and deepen our participation in Christ's covenant in practical ways. For the steward, that means making daily, personal sacrifices to strengthen this covenant relationship such as deepening our relationship with the Lord in prayer, supporting our parish, and giving comfort to the poor. Now

is a good time to reflect on what we can do to strengthen our covenant with the Lord and our community in practical ways.

For the weekend of June 20/21, 2009 Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today's Gospel reading we hear Jesus commanding the wind and sea to be at peace, to be still. The Gospel scene depicting Jesus and his disciples on a boat seems appropriate for the summer. It is a season to contemplate nature and to find God in the wonders of His creation. It is also a time to contemplate, as stewards of the Lord's abundant gifts, all of creation as God's gift and that ultimately it is God who has control over the world and not us.

For the weekend of June 27/28, 2009 Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today's second reading, St. Paul offers the community at Corinth a spirituality of giving. He urges them to give and helps them understand that through their generosity, they will in turn be recipients of a spiritual abundance. They will receive from those who are the beneficiaries of their own giving; a reciprocal gift that amounts to an equality of giving through the generosity of Christ. A good reflection this week would be on how Christian stewards, through their generosity, enjoy a spiritual abundance through Christ Jesus.

INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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We encourage you to check out the ICSC Forum at www.catholicstewardship.org under 'members' where members can share ideas and questions. The Parish Stewardship section is reviewed every day by members of the Parish Stewardship Education and Services Committee.

JESUS WAY – THE STEWARDS REWARD

The following pages are based on the United States bishops' pastoral letter, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response* (1992). It is compiled, edited and written by Scott Bader, Director of Parish Stewardship for the Archdiocese of Seattle.



By their worthy deeds in this life, people also make a limited but real human contribution to building up the kingdom. They do so with an eye to present happiness and also to the fulfillment, which the kingdom – and themselves as part of it – will enjoy in the life to come.

Stewardship: A Disciple's Response,
a Pastoral Letter on Stewardship

Peter was moved to say to Him "We have put aside everything to follow you!" Jesus answered, "I give you my word, there is no one who has given up home, brothers or sisters, mother or father, children or property, for me and for the gospel who will not receive in this present age a hundred times as many homes, brothers and sisters, mothers, children and property – and persecution besides – and in the age to come, everlasting life." (Mark 10:28-30)

I am constantly in awe of the seeming paradoxes that run through Christ's message. I think that is why it rings so true – who would preach a message so contrary to the ways of this world but God himself?

The more we give up for God (to the church and community, of time and treasure), the more we receive from God! And not just in the next life, but in this life too.

I've found my friends who practice Stewardship as a way of life say they have found the meaning and purpose of life: serving others and giving of themselves. They are the happiest and most fulfilled people I know, certainly more so than those who've focused on getting as many material goods and "toys" as they can.

QUESTIONS:

- Why should we do good here in this life?
- What should you do best in God's kingdom on earth to prepare yourself for God's kingdom in heaven?

Thank God our time is now! Stewardship is an enterprise that invites us into an exploration of a new world – an exploration into God. Which one of us can dare resist this incredible invitation from a loving and gracious God?

Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy

JESUS WAY – THE IMAGE OF THE STEWARD



All temporal and spiritual goods are created by and come from God. That is true of everything human beings have:
Spiritual gifts like faith, hope, and love,
Talents of body and brain;
Cherished relationships with family and friends;
Material goods;
The achievements of human genius and skill;
The world itself.

One day God will require an accounting of the use each person has made of the particular portion of these goods entrusted to him or her.

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There was a man who was going on a journey, and who left his wealth to be tended by three servants. Two of them responded wisely by investing the money and making a handsome profit. Upon returning, the master commends them warmly and rewards them richly. But the third behaves foolishly, with anxious pettiness, squirreling away the master's wealth and earning nothing; he is rebuked and punished. (A paraphrase of Matthew 25:14-30)

Do you ever run into people who tell you they have no talent or talents in particular? Their disclaimer is as bad as false modesty! Why would God create someone with no talents? Isn't it hard to believe that God would do that? Instead, people who claim they have no talents need to take the time to discover what their talents are. If they truly want to find a way to serve God, finding out what their talents are seems to be a small price to pay. I also remember the old saying that if only the birds with the most beautiful songs were to sing, the forest would be a very quiet place indeed.

QUESTIONS:

- What talents has God given to you?
- How have you used those gifts to further God's kingdom/make this world better?
- How have you helped others recognize the gifts God has given to them?

At the heart of stewardship is the ability to grow in our faith commitment. It is a growth that asks us to recognize the richness of the simplicity of recognizing what is really important in our lives.

Archbishop Thomas Murphy