



INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

PARISH STEWARDSHIP NEWSLETTER

May, 2010

ICSC Committee for Parish Stewardship Education and Services
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Do you have material you'd 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 Institutes

May 17-19, Arnprior, ON

November 1-3, St. Meinrad, IN

Call ICSC at 800-352-3452 for details.

A Stewardship Prayer

(Julie Varea, Archdiocese of Anchorage)

We profess that we belong to You, Lord,
That all we are and possess is a gift from You.

Help us to be faithful, loving stewards

of all you have entrusted to us,

including our faith community.

Help us unite our offerings,

so that we may care for one another

and grow closer to You.

Amen.

ICSC 2010 San Diego Conference brochure is now available online:

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



Be a part of the biggest and best international gathering of stewardship practitioners, sharing their experiences, enthusiasm, energy, and ideas, through presentations, networking, exhibits, liturgy and more...

September 19-22, San Diego, CA

New registration options can help your parish to budget the conference into this fiscal year, next fiscal year, or some in each, if necessary. Don't hesitate to contact the ICSC office with questions or for more information.

No matter how you budget it, you are sure to leave this conference with ideas that will re-pay the conference cost many times over in terms of increased participation and enhanced offertory income. Register now at:

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

STEWARDSHIP AND THE SUNDAY READINGS

by John Baumann, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish
(Archdiocese of Seattle)



May 2 – from St. John’s Gospel

“I give you a new commandment: love one another.” Embracing stewardship as a way of life is an intentional way to live this new commandment. Offering our treasured resources (time, talent or money) is an offering of love. Prayer, hospitality, formation, and service are the ways through which we can make this offering of love.

May 9 – from St. John’s Gospel

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.” Every act of stewardship (which is anything offered in love and care, large or small) contains an experience of the very peace that Jesus gives to us. Every act of stewardship is an offering and receiving of the peace we extend to those around us during Mass.

May 16 – from the Acts of the Apostles

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth.” We continue to be witnesses today through stewardship. When we offer something of ourselves (time, money, skills) in service to others, we offer witness of the love God has for all.

May 23 – from First Corinthians

“As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ.” Stewardship has many parts and we gather together in community to offer our gifts through stewardship as one. Each one of us has a part – is a part – of stewardship that is shared through our parish. As the Body of Christ is one body, so our stewardship is one unified ministry, though it has many parts.

May 30 – from Romans

“...because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” Stewardship is grounded in gratitude – gratitude for the love of God that has been poured into our hearts. We experience this love through our relationships with others. It could be claimed that stewardship begins with the decision to nurture and grow these relationships. This, then, allows us to experience the love poured into us. Our gratitude fuels the offering of ourselves in service to others through stewardship.

ICSC Parish Stewardship Awards deadline extended to July 1st!

Apply now for one of these ICSC parish stewardship awards:

The **Archbishop Murphy Parish Stewardship Award** - for outstanding long-term work in stewardship. Find application information at: <http://catholicstewardship.org/en/introduction/awards.cfm>

Other parish awards (**Video, Capital Campaign, Materials**) - for parishes that have best promoted the spirituality and practice of stewardship through Video, Materials (of any sort), and/or Capital Campaigns: http://www.catholicstewardship.org/PDF/Parish_Stewardship_Promotional_Awards.pdf

Parish Stewardship Recognition - for any parish that meets certain set criteria demonstrating how it promotes the practice of stewardship in several different areas: <http://www.catholicstewardship.org/PDF/Parish%20Recognition%202009.pdf>



Growing Stewards - Build Gratitude

(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 Disciples Response*:

“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.”

For Parents

It is very easy for us to live most of our lives without being consciously grateful for so many things. We easily remember the big things (a new job or a new baby, for instance), but all too often we overlook all the daily things we also need to be grateful for. Those too are gifts from God. And gratitude for all our gifts, large or small, is the foundation of lasting stewardship.

Living Stewardship Together

Try thanking God **out loud** for the many “little blessings” that we receive, but often take for granted, each day – arriving at a destination safely, seeing a beautiful sunset, enjoying a great meal....

For Children

One good way to express our gratitude to God (and to increase our awareness of things we need to be grateful for) is to take a few moments during grace before/after meals or during prayer with the children at night to thank God for something specific that happened during the day – going to the park, play time with friends, a birthday party, etc...



Forming Good Stewards...

by Dn. Jerry Martinez, Archdiocese of New Orleans

May 2 – 5th Sunday of Easter

“I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you should also love one another.” John 13:31-35

Jesus first reminds us of the command God gave to the Israelites through Moses to *love your neighbor as yourself*. (Lev 19:18 / Luke 10:27). Next, Jesus tells us to *Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you*. (Mt 5:43, Luke 6:27). Psychologists now insist that we must love ourselves in order to be able to love others. That is how God created us. Sadly, many of us do not love ourselves enough to feel that we can be loved by others or by God. And there is also a risk that the only one that we love will be ourselves. Jesus takes love to a whole new dimension: *Love one another as I have loved you – unconditionally; without a pre-condition of recognition; without expectation of being loved in return*. God made us stewards of His love – for ourselves and for others. Are we ready to give an account of our stewardship if God asks, “What have you done with My love?”

May 9 – 6th Sunday of Easter

“I saw no temple in the city for its temple is the Lord God almighty and the Lamb” Rev 21:10-14, 22-23

The Apostle John was banished to Patmos for refusing to give up his mission to bring Christ to all people. Patmos is a charming small island in the Aegean Sea between Greece and Turkey where John wrote the Book of Revelations, a letter he addressed to “the seven churches of Asia.” Today they are on the western side of Turkey along the shores of the Dardanelles and the Aegean Sea. John employs sinister images and applies coded references to people and groups to convey the beauty of the love of God and to challenge disciples of Jesus to stay firm in the faith. He taught that God was not confined to a building, the temple in Jerusalem. Rather, Jesus, the Lamb, and all who believe in Him and imitate Him, are temples. This challenged the beliefs and threatened the livelihood of the Jewish leaders. John also challenges us to believe in God as the source of all that we have, all that we are, and all that we ever will be. Are we good stewards of all that God has given to us?

May 16 – 7th Sunday of Easter

“Jesus prayed: Holy Father, I pray not only for them, but for those who will believe in me through their word.” John 17:20-26

Jesus knew that his disciples who witnessed his life, death and resurrection, who learned from his actions, and who listened to his teachings, would one day pass away. Other generations would believe in Him through the word of these eye-witnesses. Jesus also knew others would only believe the witnesses if their words matched

their actions. Jesus intended that each generation be the custodians and stewards of faith in Him, and that each generation accept the responsibility to pass on that faith by word and action, by what they said and did. To pass on a true faith, we must know our faith; to know our faith, we must study and learn more each day. That takes time and effort. Do we know and live our faith in such a way that we are passing it on to future generations as Jesus intended? Are we being good stewards of our faith? When was the last time we made an effort to learn more about our faith? If we have to stop and think, it’s been too long!

May 23 – Pentecost Sunday

“To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.” 1Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13

It has been seven weeks and one day since Easter Sunday. It is Pentecost (from the Greek word for “fiftieth”), the day on which the Holy Spirit encouraged the Apostles to proclaim Jesus Christ to people from many nations, cultures, languages and religious beliefs. Each person heard the Apostles in his or her own tongue. Amazing! Even more amazing is that people with a variety of religious beliefs came to believe in Jesus. Later, Paul writes to Christians in Corinth, a very diverse seaport city, and he tells them something so obvious we often forget it: Each of us is a person with a unique array of talents, abilities and gifts that God has given to us to use for ourselves and for others – material wealth, intelligence, musical and artistic talent, athletic ability, and many others. God intends for us to enjoy them ourselves and to share them with others. How are we doing with that? One day God will ask.

May 30, 2010 - Most Holy Trinity

“Everything the Father has is mine...” John 16:12-15

We live in a world in which the spirit of competition is so strong that it is difficult for some people to acknowledge that they are not solely responsible for their achievements. We can be very presumptuous! Yet the manner in which we speak, the words and phrases we use, our tone and dialect, come from the people who raised us or from teachers who helped us learn another way. People who are successful in business or sports owe much to the teachers, coaches, teammates, supervisors and co-workers who helped them on their journey to success. The intimate, albeit mysterious, union of the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity, and our union with Jesus, are reflected in the words of Jesus, “Everything the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.” Do we demonstrate by the way we live that everything we have comes from God, belongs to God, and is intended to be used for ourselves and for others? Does our life reflect our gratitude to our Triune God for all that we have, are, and ever will be?