

INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

THERE IS
STILL TIME
TO REGISTER!



Stewardship Institute

ICSC /OSV Autumn Stewardship Institute Offers New Ideas!

The 2010 ICSC/OSV Autumn Stewardship Institute is right around the corner. Conducted in a retreat-like setting, this institute is for parish leaders and those diocesan professionals committed to stewardship formation. Whether you are new or just looking for a refresher, this newly-revised institute offers a wealth of fundamentals and new ideas for introducing and sustaining stewardship efforts.

Sessions include in-depth presentations on:

- The theology of Christian stewardship and its basic concepts
- Practical techniques for inviting parishioners to embrace stewardship as a way of life
- The Parish stewardship process, stewardship days, ministry fairs and ongoing renewals
- Learning the quality characteristics of a stewardship parish

The Institute will be held November 1 – 3, 2010 at Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad, Indiana.

Online Registration is available at www.catholicstewardship.org For more information please call 800-352-3452.

Stewards of a Missionary Church

The month of October is an ideal time to focus our prayerful reflections on the world and to see its peoples as a gift from God. The global community is a gift to be received with gratitude and held in stewardship. With the celebration of World Mission Sunday, October is a month that offers Catholics world-wide the opportunity to renew their commitment to proclaim the Gospel and to give a greater missionary focus to parish activities. It is time to reflect on the global context of our stewardship, and to express our gratitude to missionaries who bear witness to Christ in the most remote and challenging places of the world, often with their lives.

The month of October can remind us that being witnesses to Jesus Christ is a stewardship responsibility of us all, and that in a world experiencing increasingly disturbing forms of alienation and indifference, our communion of faith can offer signs of hope and work to make the planet a home for all peoples.

We are “communion” because of the gift of the Eucharist. And this gift that we celebrate in the sacrament is not something we can keep to ourselves. By its very nature it demands to be shared with everyone. That is one reason the missionary impulse of our Church has always been a sign of vitality in its unique witness of unity around the world.

There are a number of ways you can focus on the missionary activity of the Church:

- Include petitions for the Church’s missionary work in your daily prayers.
- Increase your awareness of the wider global mission of the Church.
- Discover ways to participate in specific missionary activities taking place in your parish or diocese.
- Give generously on World Mission Sunday, celebrated this year on October 24.

The Church’s work around the world is as important as the work in our own neighborhood. Let us be mindful this month that we are stewards of the Gospel, called to proclaim it to the ends of the earth, bringing hope to a world that hungers for Christ’s peace.



A Stewardship Saint for October



Saint Paul of the Cross

Saint Paul of the Cross was born in 1694 in the town of Oavada, in northern Italy, to a wealthy merchant family, the second of sixteen children. At age 19, after a normal childhood, he experienced a conversion to a life of prayer.

When he was 26 years old, during a period of intense prayer and solitude, Paul of the Cross had a series of prayer-experiences which made it clear to him that God was inviting him to form a community of men who would live together and dedicate themselves to preaching the Passion of Christ. His main aim in the community was, as he wrote, to form a man totally centered on God, a man of prayer who is detached from possessions so that he may be free to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

His first companion was his own brother, John Baptist, who was ordained to the priesthood with Paul by Pope Benedict XIII in 1727, in St. Peter's Basilica. After ordination they devoted themselves to preaching missions in parishes, particularly in remote country places where there were not enough priests. Their preaching and retreats gained the attention of others and gradually the "Passionist" community began to grow. The Passionist community was in great demand in many parts of Italy, in part because of the community's success in bringing lapsed Catholics back to the Church, and in their ministry to the sick and dying.

During his lifetime, Paul of the Cross was best known for his preaching and spiritual direction. More than two thousand of his letters, most of them letters of spiritual direction, have been preserved.

He died in Rome in 1775, at the age of 81. He was canonized by Pope Pius IX in 1867. His feast day is October 20.

A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Lord, you have called us to be stewards
and to form stewards.

Send your Spirit into our lives
that we might better recognize and share the gifts
you have lavished upon us and lead others to discover
and share their gifts.

May we continue to look for ways
to strengthen our ties with those
who have already embraced stewardship
and to discover ways to reach out to those
for whom stewardship is not yet part of their lives.

And when, like the apostles,
we have labored through the night and caught nothing,
help us to heed your call to set out into the deep
and uncharted waters
that our nets might be filled.

In all that we do, help us to remember that
as your disciples we are called to do your will.

Amen.

*Rev. Joseph Creedon
Pastor, Christ the King Parish
Kingston, Rhode Island*

48th Annual ICSC Stewardship Conference a Big Success

On September 19-22, 2010, the International Catholic Stewardship Council held its 48th annual stewardship conference in San Diego, California. More than 1,150 attendees participated in 80 sessions that covered a broad spectrum of topics related to the way stewardship is promoted and embraced in the Catholic Church.

Sunday's opening keynote speaker was Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, Archbishop Emeritus of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. Cardinal McCarrick encouraged the plenary session audience to continue its devoted work to promoting stewardship in dioceses and parishes, for it provides a language for helping Catholic families understand more concretely what it means to be a disciple of Christ in the 21st century.

A number of parish leaders praised the conference for bringing out fresh ideas to promote stewardship. One attendee expressed amazement at how the conference "...identifies and reveals the creative strategies, talented people and spirit-filled initiative behind teaching stewardship in parishes." Another attendee expressed a desire to attend the next ICSC conference in Orlando, Florida (October 23-26, 2011), and said: "I'm here with other parish leaders. We hope that what we take away from this conference will influence and shape our future efforts to teach our parishioners what it means to be good stewards."



A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time For the weekend of October 3, 2010

In today's Gospel Jesus instructs the apostles on faith and service, two bedrock principles of Christian stewardship. While his teaching on one's attitude toward service may be easier to grasp, Jesus' reflection on faith is the more important one for the Christian steward. Perhaps this is a good week to reflect on being stewards of our own faith. Some questions we might ask ourselves: What is the character and quality of my own faith? How sincere is it? Have I ever asked the Lord for an increase in faith? What seemingly impossible things might I be able to accomplish if my faith in Jesus Christ were the size of a mustard seed?

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time For the weekend of October 10, 2010

In their gratitude for being healed, both Naaman, the Syrian general, and the leper in today's gospel offered profound expressions of faith. So it is that the life of the Christian steward is based on a life lived in gratitude. Naaman was willing to offer a fortune to the prophet. The leper was willing to accept a whole new way of life in Christ. Embracing a sense of gratitude is often lost in our "I want more" culture. But when we truly understand what it means to be grateful, we begin to develop an awareness of all that God has given us. Ask yourself this week: Do I live each day with a sense of gratitude? Am I really thankful for the gifts I have received?

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time For the weekend of October 17, 2010

A fundamental element of Christian stewardship is prayer and in today's Gospel Jesus encourages his disciples to pray constantly and not to lose heart. Prayer is a gift and we would not even have an awareness to pray if the Lord had not planted this gift within each of us. Take inventory of your prayer life this week. Do you stop to pray each day?

Do you take opportunities to try and have a deep conversation with God? Do you find quiet time so that you may be able to hear Christ speaking to you, consoling you, encouraging you, challenging you, befriending you?

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time For the weekend of October 24, 2010

October is a month filled with sporting events, from school athletic fields to professional sports stadiums across the country. We see athletes honored and praised for the God-given gifts they've cultivated and displayed, whether it be in newspaper headlines, television screens and on many a sports apparel. In today's second reading, St. Paul uses the sporting metaphor to reflect on his gift of faith and how he has used his gifts to give testimony to Jesus Christ. God has endowed each of us with unique gifts as well, beginning with the gift of faith. How well have we cultivated and displayed our own God-given gifts? As stewards of God's abundant gifts, have we "competed well" for the Lord? Are we "running the race" for God? Are we keeping and sharing our faith in Jesus Christ?

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time For the weekend of October 31, 2010

The encounter between Jesus and the wealthy Zacchaeus offers a number of stewardship themes for this week's reflection: heeding the call of Jesus, conversion, repentance, generosity, acting out of justice. One stewardship theme from this Gospel reading that is not often commented upon is the steward's task of receiving Christ with a joyful heart. How often do we "receive him with joy?" Do we know him well enough to receive in joy? Do we experience his love? Do we accept him as our savior, or are we looking for something or someone else? It seems that only when we have some personal knowledge of Jesus, open our hearts to him and accept him as Christ, our savior, can we truly receive him with joyful hearts.

Share Gifts

From the United States bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship:

"Christian stewards are generous out of love as well as duty. They dare not fail in charity and what it entails... The fundamental pattern is simple and changeless: 'Serve one another through love, bear one another's burdens... and so you will fulfill the law of Christ' (Gal 5:13, 6:2)."



For Parents

Let your children know when you are making your gifts to your parish, local Church or charities. Explain to them that you set aside part of your pay check every month for these contributions to be made. This sets a good example for your children. They learn best from seeing what you do. If they see you being generous to your Church and the charitable causes that are important to you, they will learn that this practice of generosity is an important part of your life as a Christian steward.

Living Stewardship Together

Both parents and children can be involved in decisions about when family gifts to their Church or favorite charity are made. After making their contributions to the Church, a family may decide what charitable organization will be the beneficiary of their gift in any given month. Another alternative might be to save those remaining funds designated for charities after the Church contributions are made throughout the year. Then, during the Advent or Christmas season, or perhaps on Christmas Eve, make a decision about which charities those remaining funds will be allocated. It's not only good stewardship, but also provides a great focus for the Christmas season.

For Children

Make a commitment to set aside at least 10 cents from every dollar you earn or are given. Put half of it in the collection basket at Church and put the other half in a special "piggy bank" to be given to the needy or to some special charity or school fundraising event. You will find that it really feels good to give!

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

Florida Parish Seeks Stewardship, Development and Communications Director

St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church, a growing, vibrant and multi-cultural parish in Tampa, Florida is seeking a Stewardship, Development and Communications Director. This position will manage all aspects of the parish's development program, community relations, marketing and communications and most important all that is related to Stewardship.

Essential functions include:

- Providing leadership to the parish Stewardship Commission, serve as a resource for the Pastor, parish staff and ministries in developing Stewardship as a way of life in the parish.
- Develop and manage capital campaign drives, the Annual Pastoral Appeal and other fundraising events in order to help meet the financial needs of parish programs.
- Oversee production of all print publications, handle all public relations and marketing programs and develop and manage the church website. Plan and manage and effective parish marketing and communications effort.
- Work closely with the Parish Finance Council to establish and implement an annual parish development plan and budget, identify and define need for support.

Candidates must be a practicing Roman Catholic Steward of high moral character with knowledge of and adherence to Catholic beliefs and practices. A minimum of 5 years of demonstrated experience developing and managing parish Stewardship programs, capital development and fundraising as well as managing the marketing and communications of parish internal and external media relations. A BA or BS degree is required; concentration in business or marketing and communications is a plus. Qualified candidates should submit their resume and cover letter with salary requirements to:

Father David DeJulio, Pastor
St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church
9724 Cross Creek Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33647

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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.