

Stewardship Bulletin Inserts

Fall 2010

From the Archdiocese of St. Louis

Stewardship Bulletin Reflections

September 2010 - December 2010

September 5, 2010

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple." - Luke 14:33

When we first hear this statement, it seems that Jesus is making an unrealistic demand upon us. How can we renounce all of our possessions? We need them to live. However, what we must renounce is the belief that they belong to us.

Everything that we have belongs to God alone. All of our resources are entrusted to us not only for our own use, but also so that we can help others. Once we renounce the idea that we possess or are entitled to anything, it is much easier to share the many gifts that God has given us. Then we truly are His Disciples.

September 12, 2010

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Everything I have is yours." - Luke 15:31

Our Heavenly Father gives us everything, including the chance to share in His eternal kingdom. Yet, like the Prodigal Son we are often lured away by the materialism of our society. Do we really want to turn our backs on all that God offers in exchange for a material wealth that has no lasting value?

September 19, 2010

Stewardship Awareness Sunday

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"It is my wish, then, that in every place the people should pray, lifting up holy hands, without anger or argument." - 1 Timothy 2:8

Try to make it a habit to give God the first few minutes of each day by simply praying, "Lord, what do You want me to do today with all the gifts You have given me?" Then be sure to listen for His response throughout each day.

September 26, 2010

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented. Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established..." - Luke 16:25-26

When God created the world He declared that it was good and He gave it to all mankind for us to enjoy. However, over the years we have created a chasm between those who have great gifts and those who do not. In today's Gospel we see that with our own generosity we must bridge that gap between those who have much and those who have little or we may find ourselves on the wrong side of the chasm in the next life.

October 3, 2010

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control."

- 2 Timothy 1:7

A good steward cannot be a coward. It takes strength, love and self-control to put God first in our lives. St. Paul assures us that we have been given the courage we need to do God's work.

October 10, 2010

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?" - Luke 17:18

Jesus seems so sad and disappointed in the nine lepers who did not return to thank Him. Do we regularly return to thank God? Or do we run off to our busy lives, taking for granted all the wonderful blessings that God gives to us every day?

October 17, 2010

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"...be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient..." - 2 Timothy 4:2

It is not always convenient to be a good steward, especially when all the temptations of our busy and materialistic world get in the way. Yet, we must be persistent even when it is inconvenient. This persistence marks the true follower of Christ.

October 24, 2010

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"for whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

- Luke 18:14

Do we exalt ourselves? We do if we think that we get credit for any of the good things in our lives. As stewards it is important that we remember that

every good thing on this earth is a gift from God.

We should be humbled by God's abundant generosity. Our hearts should be filled with gratitude.

October 31, 2010

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

"And how could a thing remain, unless you willed it; or be preserved, had it not been called forth by you?" - Wisdom 11:25

These words from the Book of Wisdom, remind us that every single gift, skill, talent or blessing that we have has been called forth for us from God. The incredible abundance that surrounds us is all given to us by our heavenly Father for a reason. These gifts are not given for us to hoard but rather for us to share.

November 7, 2010

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting encouragement and good hope through his grace, encourage your hearts and strengthen them in every good deed and word." - 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

God wants us to know the joy of giving. Yet, being generous takes strength and trust and grace. That's why St. Paul reminds us to turn to God every day for encouragement and guidance on our stewardship journey.

November 14, 2010

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"All that you see here – the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down." - Luke 21:6

Thanks to the effort of a billion-dollar advertising industry, our material expectations continue to rise year after year. Yet, today, speaking about the end of time, Jesus reminds us that all the material possessions we spend our time and energy to accumulate will become nothing but rubble in the end. What will really matter will be the time we spend on improving our relationship with our God.

November 21, 2010

Feast of Christ the King

"He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son..."

- Colossians 1:13

If we recognize Jesus as our King, then we must also recognize ourselves as His loyal subjects. As members of God's kingdom we have an abundance of wonderful blessings. But we also have responsibilities. We must always use our gifts to help build up the kingdom. We must never forget that we are truly blessed to be called to serve the Greatest of Kings.

November 28, 2010

1st Sunday of Advent

"For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." - Matthew 24:42

Preparations for the Christmas season remind us how much we all want to be generous. We all want to give good gifts to one another. Yet, often when it comes to giving back to God our response is, "Not yet!" We put off sharing our time, talent

and treasure for another day. We say we will give when we have more time or more money. Yet, none of us knows when God will come and ask for an accounting of how we used the gifts entrusted to our care. The start of Advent reminds us not to put off our stewardship. The Lord is coming!

December 5, 2010

2nd Sunday of Advent

"Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

- Matthew 3:10

Do you bear good fruit for Christ? Or do you spend your time, talent and treasure constantly acquiring more toys, clutter and junk. As we are immersed in the Holiday shopping season now might be a good time to evaluate what gifts do we give to God?

December 12, 2010

3rd Sunday of Advent

"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised..." - Matthew 11:4-5

When Jesus cured the sick we called it a miracle. Yet God has blessed us with many good things – our eyesight, our hearing, our talents, our health and so much more – and we often take it all for granted. The good steward recognizes every blessing in life as a miracle from God and strives to use those gifts for God's honor and glory.

December 19, 2010

4th Sunday of Advent

"The Lord's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it. For he founded it upon the sea and established it upon the rivers." - Psalm 24:1-2

How can we take credit for the good things in our lives when Psalm 24 reminds us that God created absolutely everything and everyone on the earth? Surely we all have an obligation to return a portion of our good fortune to the Lord, for without Him nothing would be possible.

December 26, 2010

Feast of the Holy Family

"Over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts." - Colossians 3:14-15

Jesus is God's ultimate gift of love to us. The countless other blessing that God showers upon us are nothing compared to the gift of His only Son. And the only appropriate way for us to respond to such generous love is with our own generous love. When we dedicate our lives to sharing all the many gifts that God has placed within our hands, the peace of Christ truly will control our hearts. We will know Christmas joy every day

those who do not. In today's Gospel we see that with our own generosity we must bridge that gap between those who have much and those who have little or we may find ourselves on the wrong side of the chasm in the next life.

Prayer for Generosity

God will not be outdone in generosity. He has given us everything we have in life, save our sins. For the sake of our salvation, He gave His only Son. His self-giving is nowhere so evident as in the Mass, where Christ gives us everything He has: body, blood, soul and divinity. God has held nothing back. To imitate Him, we must give as He gives. Ignatius taught his Company to pray this prayer to obtain a divine spirit of generosity:

**Teach us, good Lord, to serve You
as You deserve,
to give and not count the cost,
to fight and not heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labor and ask not for any reward
except that of knowing that we do
Your will**

***"Take Five
On-The-Job Meditations with St. Ignatius"
Mike Aquilina & Fr. Kris D. Stubna***