

Stewardship Bulletin Inserts Spring 2010

From the Archdiocese of St. Louis

Thoughts on Giving

March 2010 - June 2010

March 14, 2010

4th Sunday of Lent

*"No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan." -
Joshua 5:12*

Throughout the forty years that the Israelites journeyed through the desert, God provided them with manna to eat. As soon as they were able to enjoy the fruits of the Promised Land the manna ceased. Likewise, God's blessings to us may change over the years but it is important to trust that God will always provide us with all that we need.

March 21, 2010

5th Sunday of Lent

"For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ..." - Philippians 3:8

Learning to see our material possessions as just so much rubbish is an important step in growing closer to Jesus Christ. Then we are able to give more freely and joyfully.

March 28, 2010

Palm Sunday

*"I tell you, Peter, before the cock crows this day, you will deny three times that you know me." -
Luke 22:34*

This Holy Week let us reflect upon how often we deny that we know Jesus by the ways that we decide to use our time, our talent and our treasure.

April 4, 2010

Easter

*"He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him." -
Acts 10:38*

As we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord, we must realize that in rising from the dead, Jesus declares to us that He is truly God and His way is the real way. His commands are real. We cannot ignore them any longer. We must throw off our chains of greed, materialism and selfishness and rise to a new level of giving and doing good, just as Jesus called us to do.

April 11, 2010

2nd Sunday of Easter

*"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'" - John
20:21*

Peace – the first gift of the risen Lord. As Jesus sent the apostles out into the world to share His peace and Good News, He also sends us. The Annual Catholic Appeal provides countless opportunities to share His peace with our brothers and sisters next door to us and in the far corners of the Archdiocese. In giving to help support these programs, you will receive the peace of Christ.

April 18, 2010

3rd Sunday of Easter

"Peter was distressed that Jesus had said to him a third time, 'Do you love me?' and he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep.'" - John 21:17

All of us are challenged to show our love for Jesus by "feeding His sheep." We are called to help those who are less fortunate. One way that we can do this is through the Annual Catholic Appeal. This year, take time to ask God if you are giving as much as He wants you to give.

April 25, 2010

4th Sunday of Easter

"The disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit." - Acts 13:52

Because the disciples had heard Our Lord's call, they were able to spread the message of the Gospel with strength and vitality. We, too, can experience that same joy if we take time to listen to God, to ask for His direction and to allow the Holy Spirit to guide our lives and our decisions.

May 2, 2010

5th Sunday of Easter

"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." - John 13:34

Jesus showed His love by healing the sick, giving hope to the hopeless and ultimately dying on the cross for us. We, too, are called to show our love for one another. The agencies supported by the Annual Catholic Appeal carry on the work and the love of Jesus. When you give to the ACA you give love to someone in need.

May 9, 2010

6th Sunday of Easter

"Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid." - John 14:27

When we let the daily pressures of life trouble us we begin to believe that we are responsible for taking care of everything. This causes us to frantically cling to both our time and treasure. Yet, Jesus tells us not to be troubled or afraid. Take a deep breath and place your trust in God. When you do, you can be a better steward of all that God has placed in your care.

May 16, 2010

7th Sunday of Easter

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." - Revelations 22:13

These words from the very last chapter of the Bible are a final reminder for us to put God first in our lives. Putting God first doesn't mean giving until it hurts. Putting God first means giving until our giving fills us with joy and contentment. This usually means giving more generously, not less.

May 23, 2010

Pentecost Sunday

"The Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you." - John 14:26

The materialism of our society lures us to concentrate more on what we want than on what God wants for us and from us. It is good to know that when we are confused by our stewardship responsibilities we can call on the Holy Spirit to show us the way.

May 30, 2010

Trinity Sunday

"But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth." - John 16:13

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us know the truth. So why not ask the Holy Spirit the truth about your stewardship? Are you sharing your time and talent with God and others? Do you give a fair amount of your treasure to do the work of the Lord? Can you hear the Spirit's answer to those questions in your heart now? What more is He calling you to do?

June 6, 2010

Feast of Corpus Christi

"They all ate and were satisfied. And when the leftover fragments were picked up, they filled twelve wicker baskets." - Luke 9:17

The story of the Loaves and Fishes shows us that when we share what we have - even if it doesn't seem like that much - miracles can happen. God blesses the gifts we offer and makes them wondrous.

June 13, 2010

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"When I entered your house, you did not give me water for my feet." - Luke 7:44

Today's Gospel calls us to consider how we serve God. Do we consume like the Pharisee who simply reclines at the table and expects to be served? Or do we contribute like the woman who kneels before Jesus and washes His feet? Every day we must make a choice. Take or give? Consume or contribute? Recline or serve?

June 20, 2010

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." - Luke 9:23

We are not very good at "denying ourselves" in this society. Our current economic situation is evidence of what happens when people think they can have everything they want. Jesus calls us to set our own personal "wants" aside so that we have the resources to follow Him instead.

June 27, 2010

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters. But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather serve one another through love." - Galatians 5:13

We like to celebrate the fact that we are free to "live the good life." But Jesus calls us to a different kind of freedom. St. Paul reminds us that Jesus sets us free so that we can serve one another, share our gifts and promote God's work here on earth.

A Feast or Famine!

“Often people tell God what they want to believe, rather than simply receiving the Faith in its fullness. While I’m glad that people are willing enough to talk to God, this Lenten season gives us an opportunity to consider how we talk to God. Are we humble in our approach by listening to Him or do we simply use our prayer time to tell God how to run the universe, beginning with our own lives? True Faith is not cafeteria-style, picking and choosing what we want. It’s a family-style meal that means we eat what is set before us. And, if we trust the one who serves us—namely God our Father and Mother Church – the spiritual food will be the very thing that will save us. So we should eat it up and make sure we leave nothing behind!”

*Fr. Leo Patalinghug
Grace Before Meals*