

Rich Stewardship Bulletin Inserts

From the Archdiocese of St. Louis

Thoughts on Giving

June 2009 - September 2009

June 21, 2009

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Then he asked them, 'Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?'" - Mark 4:40

The thought of stewardship terrifies some of us. We may feel that we cannot afford to give God a grateful share or to give the first fruits rather than the leftovers. It takes great faith and trust to believe that, just as He calmed the storm and quieted the waves, Our God will always provide us with all that we need, if we trust Him enough to give to Him first.

June 28, 2009

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"...your abundance at the present time should supply their needs..." - 2 Corinthians 8:14

Economic crisis can teach us many valuable stewardship lessons. We are quickly realizing that as individuals and as a society we really did not need everything that we wanted. We are also learning to count our blessings and to see that we have been abundantly blessed by God. And, hopefully, we are becoming more willing to share our gifts with those who truly are in need.

July 5, 2009

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"As the Lord spoke to me, the spirit entered me and set me on my feet, and I heard the one who was speaking say to me, 'Son of man, I am sending you...'" - Ezekiel 2:2-3

God sends each of us to do some special work for Him. And, He gives us all the talents that we need to do that work. However, do we listen to God when He calls? Do we get up on our feet and give our time to do the work God asks of us? This is the basis for good stewardship.

July 12, 2009

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick – no food, no sack, no money in their belts." - Mark 6:8

How different we are from the Apostles who took nothing when they ventured out to serve God. Today, we make our journey through life more difficult because of all the material baggage that we drag along. Yet, the more we can let go of, the freer we are to serve God with love and joy.

July 19, 2009

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." - Psalm 23:1

Modern advertising tempts us to want so many things. Yet a faithful steward knows the difference between what he wants and what he needs. We can give generously when we trust that the Lord will provide for all of our true needs.

July 26, 2009

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" - John 6:9

The miracle of the Loaves and Fishes is the only one of Our Lord's miracles which is recorded six times in the Gospel. It carries two important messages. First, no matter how little we have, we always have enough to share. Second, Christ can take our humble gifts and do great things with them if we are just willing to let Him.

August 2, 2009

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Each day the people are to go out and gather their daily portion; thus will I test them, to see whether they follow my instructions or not." - Exodus 16:4

God frowns upon it when we take or keep more than we need. When the Israelites gathered more than their daily portion of manna, that which they hoarded away became wormy and rotten. In the same way, God calls us today to be content with a fair portion and to be willing to share the rest.

August 9, 2009

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Get up and eat, else the journey will be too long for you!" - 1 Kings 19:7

Jesus knew that the stewardship journey would be difficult, so He gave us the nourishment of the Eucharist. When we take time to join our sacrifices with the sacrifice of the Mass, we find the strength to give and joy in our giving.

August 16, 2009

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Watch carefully then how you live, not as foolish persons but as wise..." - Ephesians 5:15

A wise person recognizes that all we have comes from God. A wise person thanks God every day for all His many blessings. A wise person realizes that God has blessed us for a reason and He wants us to be partners with Him in His work here on earth.

August 23, 2009

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

"If it does not please you to serve the Lord, decide today whom you will serve...As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." - Joshua 24:15

When we commit to serve the Lord, we must be willing to become a partner in the work of the Lord. A partner is a person who invests time, talent and treasure. If we say we serve God, we must actually do something!

August 30, 2009

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Be doers of the word and not hearers only..." - James 1:22

What do you do to live God's word? Do you share time and talent with your parish or those in need? Do you support the work of the Church with the fruits from your own work?

September 6, 2009

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?" - James 2:5

What is more important – being rich in faith or rich in possessions? Society teaches us that possessions are most important. God teaches a different lesson. When we are rich in faith we know that material things really do not matter and we are more willing to share what we have.

September 13, 2009

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." - Mark 8:34

When we truly believe that all we have is a gift from God, then we must be willing to deny ourselves some things so that we can share our blessings as God intended them to be shared.

September 20, 2009

STEWARDSHIP AWARENESS SUNDAY 2

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." - Mark 9:35

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus teaches us through His words and through His life that we are called to serve one another. We can serve through our sacrifices of time, talent and treasure. Sacrifice is not a word that many people like to hear. We think it means that we must give up something that we want. However, the literal meaning of sacrifice is "to make holy," from the words "sacer" = sacred and "facere" = to make. In other words, we make our lives holy by giving up some of our time, talent and treasure in the service of God and His Church.

September 27, 2009

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward." - Mark 9:41

Our Lord's comment about the simple gesture of giving a drink of water is a reminder of how Jesus taught that we would all be judged at the end of time. *"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me." Matthew 25:35.* Our service and sacrifice to our parish and the greater Church allows us to care for Jesus when He is hungry, thirsty, ill or in need.

"In stewardship, you give off the top, not what is left over. Consider the apple. If you have some and give just what is left over...you give the apple core."

The Little Burgundy Book