



Parish Bulletin Stewardship Reflections February 2009

February 1st – 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Paul speaks to us today about our vocations. Paul stresses living a life that is Christ-centered not self-centered in whatever vocation God has called us. The US Bishops in their pastoral letter on stewardship remind us that we are all called to be disciples of Jesus and this is our common Christian vocation, be it single or married. *“Christians are called to be good stewards of the vocations they receive. Each of us must discern, accept, and live out joyfully and generously the commitments, responsibilities, and roles to which God calls him or her.”* USCCB – Stewardship – A Disciple’s Response © 2002

February 8th – 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today’s second reading St. Paul writes that he has been *‘entrusted with a commission’* and that he has an obligation to proclaim the Gospel! We too have been entrusted with sharing the gift of our faith. As Christian Stewards we share the good news not out of obligation but out of gratitude for having been given it. Paul also asks the question, *‘What then is my reward?’* People trying to live as stewards similarly may ask what reward they will receive. This is not to be confused with selfishness but is more an expression of Christian hope. Hope in a good and gracious God who provides for our every need.

February 15th – 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

In Jesus’ time lepers were to be segregated and certainly not to be touched! Yet our Lord reached out, touched this man and healed him because He chose to. Jesus did not withhold the gift of healing that God gave Him. He did not place conditions on who should be healed, and willingly shared His gift of healing with all who came to Him. Who are the lepers in your life? Are you picky about who you will reach out to? Good stewards willingly and joyfully share their time with others.

February 22nd – 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Forgiveness is a gift from God. Freed from the paralysis of sin, the man in today’s Gospel was able to stand and give witness to the power of God. How do you let sin cripple you? Are you a good steward of the gift of God’s forgiveness? Are you receiving forgiveness with gratitude, cherishing it, and cultivating it in your heart, sharing it with others, and finally returning it to the Lord with increase through acts of lovingly forgiving others?