

Bulletin Stewardship Reflections  
September 2009, Year B

***September 6 – Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time***

St. James speaks to us today about hospitality. To be a good steward of our community means that we ensure *all* feel welcome. The gift we encounter in each person calls us to hold everyone in high esteem. Christian hospitality is so much more than *planned* hospitality, like coffee Sundays and greeters. To live as a Disciple of Jesus is to enter into a *daily disposition* of hospitality. Try practicing the S.A.S. of hospitality at work, at home and especially in the Church on Sunday.

Smile – Acknowledge – Serve

***September 13 – Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time***

Most people when asked, “**What must I do to be a Disciple of Jesus?**” will quickly and rightly respond, “Take up my cross and follow Him.” Often the third requirement that Jesus gives us today is overlooked or neglected – **‘to deny oneself’**. What does it mean to deny oneself? There are many ways in which to respond. The simplest is to live a Christ-centered life as opposed to a self-centered life. This is the essence of stewardship & discipleship.

***September 20 – Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time***

Jesus tells us today that we are to be servants. Jesus, by His example, was a servant leader. He completely set aside self in order to fulfill the Father’s will. It is only in a life of service that we discover the difference between success and significance – the stewardship way of life. Setting aside our own desires means that we trust in God and in doing so find a life free of anxious worries or cares.

***September 27 – Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time***

St. James offers a warning for the rich in today’s second reading. What does it mean to be rich? If you are rich enough to have a bank account you are better off than the 70 percent of people on earth who don’t. We are all rich compared to most people in the world. Being rich is not in itself a problem. When we do not freely share what we have been given, when we cling to our money or feel a sense of entitlement that’s when we have a problem. Good stewards are grateful to be richly blessed with a job, a warm bed at night and their many possessions.