

## **Bulletin Stewardship Reflections – February 2014**

### **February 2<sup>nd</sup> – Presentation of the Lord**

In today's Gospel, Simeon foretells great pain and sorrow for Mary, "*- and a sword will pierce your own soul too.*" Mary, the first disciple and Christian steward, did not allow Simeon's prophecy to dissuade her from the path God chose for her. Being a disciple and steward is not easy in today's culture of rampant materialism, consumerism, and hedonism. As you strive to be the best disciple and steward you can be, remember the virtues of perseverance, patience, and prayer will strengthen you on the journey – especially when personal sorrow or persecution is encountered along the way.

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### **February 9<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Each one of us is given unique gifts, talents, abilities, and opportunities. When we use and share these gifts each and every day in ways that give glory to God, we shine out as a light to the world. Good stewards know and acknowledge that their gifts, talents, abilities, and yes, even opportunities, are *not* of their own making – they come from God. *'Our lives and our words, our understanding and skills are all in the hands of God'*. (Wisdom of Solomon 7:16) We can best be a light to others, when we humbly allow the Spirit of God to guide our words and actions.

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### **February 16<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

The first reading today reminds us that, *acting faithfully* is a matter of our own choice. Likewise, making stewardship a way of life is also a choice. Every day, the stewardship lifestyle is lived through freely made choices. The good steward chooses to live simply; chooses to possess sensibly; chooses to be grateful every day; and, chooses to be generous. Modern culture is driving many to choose a path that is counter to the path God intends for us. Each and every day, we are bombarded with images in the media which are designed to stimulate our selfish desires. We make choices between stimulus and consequence and the choices we make seal our fate. What lifestyle choices are you making?

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### **February 23<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

In the first reading today God tells Moses to say to the people, and to us, *'You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am Holy'*. What does stewardship have to do with being holy? God created us to be like Him. (Genesis 9:5) To be like God is to be generous. To be like God is to be merciful. To be like God is to be patient. The disciple and Christian steward must possess all of these virtues on the path to holiness. Stewardship is an important part of being holy.

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