

Stewardship Bulletin Reflections March 2nd to March 30th, 2014

March 2nd – 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today's Gospel Jesus gives us three lessons for life; we can't serve both money and God; we are not to worry; and, we must strive first for the kingdom. The kingdom is where our faith and our finances work together, they are one, we do not serve two masters; so, we steward our wealth in a manner that ensures that all have enough. The kingdom is where we believe, and we trust, that God provides for all our needs. It is the place, here and now, where we recognise the abundant blessings God makes available to us. We discover a life where we no longer worry about having enough. Good stewards are not drawn into the relentless pursuit of more and more material possessions simply out of want or envy; this pursuit never really satisfies.

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March 9th – First Sunday of Lent

In today's Gospel Jesus was tempted to stray from the path the Father had set for him. What temptations lure you from the path of discipleship? So much in our materialistic society tempts us. The beauty of stewardship, as a way of life, is that it enables the Christian steward to resist the enticement of excessive consumerism and materialism. Stewardship enables us to discern between needs and wants and thus brings a measure of balance to our lives. Stewardship provides the discipline to live in a consumer culture yet not be consumed by it. This Lenten season let us pray that we may live lives in which we possess sensibly.

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March 16th – Second Sunday of Lent

Stewardship as a way of life has its beginning in a personal encounter with God. It does not take a mountain-top experience like the disciples had in today's Gospel for our hearts and minds to be transformed. We only need to see the glory of God in all that we are able to accomplish, and all that we are blessed to possess. Seeing all of life as God's glorious and generous gift is what inspires us to be good stewards of all our gifts.

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March 23rd – Third Sunday of Lent

In today's Gospel the Samaritan woman experiences a life-changing encounter with Jesus. Stewardship likewise is life-changing and this way of life, *"always starts with*

a personal experience with the Risen Christ in our midst and in our hearts.” (Bishop Sylvester D. Ryan) With Christ at the center of our lives we experience a deeper falling in love with God. We become acutely aware of God’s many gifts and our call to steward our gifts in a manner that gives witness to that love. Our example can draw many others to know Christ, just as the Samaritan woman’s witness did.

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March 30th – Fourth Sunday of Lent

St. Paul tells us today to, *“Live as children of light”*. How can we best be that light to the world? Each one of us is anointed, called, and gifted. What are the gifts that you have been given? Through prayerful discernment we learn to know our own God-given gifts, and how to use and share them in a manner that is both pleasing to God and gives glory to God. Use your gifts well and be that light!

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