

Stewardship – A Way of Life

A Communication Vehicle of the Parish Stewardship Office,
Diocese of Rockville Centre, NY

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If I Had A Hammer

By R.C.

 It seems that every time you turn on the television or radio, there are shows and music from the 70's (ah, the 70's!). This is surely to entice with nostalgia viewers who were born in the 50's through the early 60's. I currently work in a building that used to house the high school I attended in the 70's. As I walk through the halls, I can recall images from days gone by: friends I knew, teachers I had in particular classrooms, and the dreaded Principal's office bring me back to a whole other time.

For me, growing up Catholic on Long Island in the 60's and 70's was interesting and exciting. My parents were rooted in the traditions of the church of the 20's through 50's; they helped form my early religious education. However, most of the formal instruction I received reflected "the changes" of Vatican II. Not only did the textbooks and methodologies change, but the ways things looked and acted changed. (I was young enough to be truly amazed when I discovered that the nuns in my school had hair on their heads *and* they had legs too!)

I grew up on the south shore of Long Island in a parish that was clearly struggling to embrace the implications of the Council. A young priest was decrying the war in Vietnam and "folk" Masses were just beginning. Some of the music sung at Mass was the same as the music playing on the radio. (I have to admit, I remember wondering if I had a hammer, would I really hammer in the morning?) I was taught that I was unique and that God was deeply in love with me. For me, it was clear that faith, religion, and the church were intimately connected with my daily life.



I'm not suggesting that we go back to "psychedelic Jesus" murals or songs by *Peter, Paul, and Mary* for liturgical music, but I believe that our expression of the Christian faith needs to be radically connected to our daily lives. Stewardship offers a spirituality that helps us connect. It is about everything we say and do as followers of Jesus not just at church, but

(Continued on page 2)

Where Was I?

Smiles were abundant; radiant faces of girls, boys, young adults, moms, dads, women and men of all ages crowded this place. Hearts were joyful; conversation was enthusiastic, loving and eager. All these are God's gifts.

Outside the daffodils are dazzling with yellow flowers. The red leaves of the maple trees are bursting forth in their splendor. Birds are sweetly singing; the sunshine is warm. Once again God blesses us with Springtime.

God's great gift of salvation in Ephesians 2:4-10 was just proclaimed in the second reading during our celebration of Holy Mass. In gratitude to God for His abundant love for each of us, we desire to do something in return. Remembering God's great commandment to love one another, the "something in return" is giving to others.

I saw so many parishioners seated or standing near beautifully decorated tables. I looked closer; I could really "See." Each table was decorated to celebrate a gift to Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Each one represented a different ministry already serving other people. The exchange and sharing of conversation invited other parishioners to share their time and talents for others. The Holy Spirit was enkindled in each person.

Where was I? The event that took place here brought Jesus to many hearts. We hear and we see. Salvation and stewardship go together for God's love for each of us and for our love for God:

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1) "WHERE WAS I"

S acrifice	S haring
A wareness	T houghtfulness
L ove	E nthusiasm
V irtues	W onder
A ppreciation	A cceptance
T hankfulness	R espect
I nsight	D eeds
O neeness	S ervice
N eeds	H ope
	I nspiration
	P eople

I was at the Time and Talent Festival in the St. John the Baptist R. C. Church Parish Hall on Sunday, April 2, 2000! The springtime of renewal is all around us and in us. It is through Him, with Him and in Him that God gives us every gift and calls each of us to share our gifts with each other.

By Anna Enlund, St. John the Baptist, Wading River.

Thanks to Joan Dorr, Pastoral Associate from St. John the Baptist for sharing Anna's reflection with us.

(Continued from page 1) "IF I HAD A HAMMER"

everywhere – especially at home, in the workplace, and in our local communities. Back in the 60's and 70's, thankfully, my parish was teaching me this. They didn't specifically use the language of the spirituality we now call Stewardship. But, by connecting things important to me (like music, current events, and culture) with faith and church, there was no separation between what I believed and how I sought to live as a Christian.

I think it's real important that we keep helping to make connections for ourselves and for others we meet in and through our various parish ministries and activities. Imagine what kind of a world it would be if we all had *hammers of justice, bells of freedom* and *songs of love* like we sang about back then in the 70's!

(Thanks to my good friend Lisa from my high school days who, at a moment's notice, sang the song over the phone while I was writing this and helped me remember what the hammer and the bell were for!)



Pray that every encounter we have with each other is witness to our dynamic, living faith as Christian Stewards, especially as we begin the New Millennium!

Reflection Questions for your Stewardship Committee:

- ◆ How can the basic principles of Stewardship help radically connect Christian faith to our daily lives?
- ◆ What are some ways your parish is helping people connect going to Church on Sunday with living as disciples of Jesus every day of the week?

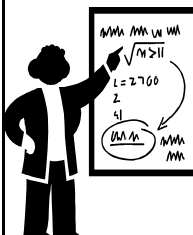


GIFT DISCOVERY

Do you want to learn about your own giftedness AND how to begin a Gift Discovery process in your parish ????

HELP IS HERE!

Parish Stewardship is sponsoring another session offered through the Office of Pastoral Formation for you!



Saturday, May 20, 2000
 St. Peter the Apostle
 I slip Terrace
 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
 A.S.A.P. !!**

Call Patricia - 516-678-5800 x536

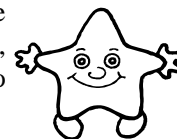
The fee is being paid by the Parish Stewardship Office for attendees from those parishes registered in the Parish Stewardship Program for the 1999-2000 Stewardship Year.

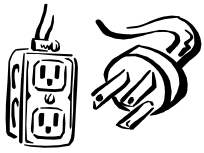
Don't Lose 'Em!!

You've put a lot of effort and sweat into your Ministry Celebration and Commitment Weekend. But, have you solidified a plan for follow-up? It is strongly recommended that each person who took the time to complete the Commitment Card receive an acknowledgement letter within three to ten days.

Parishioners not contacted or acknowledged after filling out a Commitment Card will be reluctant to fill out any form in subsequent years. It is said that it could take up to 5 years of parish leadership actively working to repair the damage before parishioners are willing to trust again and complete another commitment card.

In addition to the acknowledgements, it is a good idea to offer an orientation/information session. This is the perfect opportunity for new (and not so new) ministers to get better acquainted with the ministries they have shown an interest in, with parish leadership, and other ministers. You may also want to set up training and/or mentoring sessions. *If you need help planning, give us a call!*





A STEWARDSHIP CONNECTION

At a recent Stewardship Support Gathering, Ann Messina, Stewardship Coordinator from Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Lindenhurst, shared with us the program that catechetical leader Diana Castellano had prepared for this year's parish celebration of Confirmation. Take a look:

STEWARDSHIP A Way of Life

Time –Talent –Treasure

Jesus Church Morality Decision Confirmation

We are all called to be disciples of Jesus. In Baptism, we accept this call. As good stewards of Jesus our Confirmation candidates have given their time, talents and treasure in the following ways:

- ✧ In acting towards the Corporal Works of Mercy, the candidates have each prayed for the First Communicants and have exhibited their **talents** by making each communicant a prayer card to receive on their First Communion Day.
- ✧ As part of their **time** the candidates have given a minimum of six hours towards service in their community.

Jesus told many stories to help illustrate how we are to live. Over half of the parables of Jesus have to do with our money or our material possessions and how we are to use them to build the Kingdom of God of earth.

- ✧ As **treasure** the candidates have worked, saved and donated their money towards the following organizations:
 - In order to facilitate the Catholic Charities "A Gift of Reading" project, the candidates from Our Lady of Perpetual Help School collected, wrapped and made cards for brand new books for youngsters age 2 through 6. By their dedication they secured 300 books which were delivered to Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Church in Wyandanch in time for distribution at their Christmas party.
 - Religious Education program - Students from Room 7, Library & The Pastors Meeting, worked, saved and donated their money,

\$610.00, to the "Coalition for Life". This is an organization to assist pregnant women who have chosen "LIFE" for their unborn child. Monies raised for this wonderful cause were used for medical assistance and all areas of pre-natal care.

- The "Make a Wish Foundation" is a unique organization dedicated to making magic and creating memories for children between the ages 2 1/2 and 18 with life-threatening illnesses. The Students from Rooms 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 21, 22, 23 and 24, have worked and saved their money and together have donated \$2,000.00 to this wonderful organization.
- The Confirmation class, which meets on Saturday mornings in the cafeteria, collected and donated food to the Saint Vincent de Paul pantry. This pantry helps us to feed the many needy families in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church Parish.

We congratulate our confirmation candidates for their work & generosity to all these worthy causes.

We in the Parish Stewardship Office salute Monsignor Daniel Hamilton (Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help), the school, religious education program, and his terrific staff for a fine job of making a *Stewardship Connection!*

COMPUTER ISSUES

with Anthony J. Dino

Need Help with PDS Time and Talent?

Well, look no further!

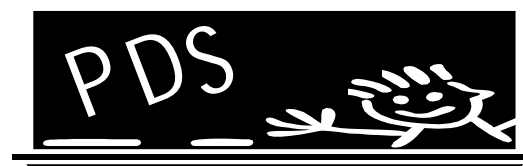
I am available to come to your parish.

Give me a call and we'll set a date.

I can help you learn how to:

- ⇒ Set Up Ministry Categories.
- ⇒ Input Ministry Commitment Cards.
- ⇒ Generate Ministry Reports.
- ⇒ Generate Mail Merge Letters in Word.

Another program benefit offered at no cost to parishes enrolled in the Parish Stewardship Program for the 1999-2000 year.





Parish Stewardship Office

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Again!?!

Scott Bader, Director of Stewardship from Seattle, Washington sent us another tip! You're on a roll Scott!!

Add a Watermark!

Add a little pizzazz to your communications by inserting a watermark (similar to the wheat in this article). Here's one way to do it:

- Type your text
- Click **Insert – Picture – Clip Art** – Choose desired Clip Art
(You will need to size your picture to fit your page.)
- Click **Format – Picture** – Choose **Picture Tab**
- In the *Color* option select **Watermark**
- Choose **Wrapping Tab** – Select **None** – Click **OK**
- Click picture with **RIGHT** mouse button – click **Order**
- Click **Send Behind Text**.

Phew! It's a lot of clicking, but it's worth it!

Thanks Scott!! And–everyone– keep 'em coming! Send me a tip for our Two Cents column and I will send you some great stuff! - Just give us a call! 516-763-6795 or e-mail: **stewardship@prodigy.net**

-Anthony J. Dino

*The life of a
Christian steward,
lived in imitation of
the life of Christ, is
challenging, even
difficult in many ways;
but both here and
hereafter
it is charged with
intense joy.*

*From "Stewardship A Disciple's
Response," The U.S. Bishops' Pastoral
Letter on Stewardship.*



Mother's Day



During the month of May, we honor all mothers, especially Jesus' mother, Mary. As stewards, we are taught to take care of our gifts. God gave Mary many gifts, including her gift of faith. Mary said, "Yes" to God because of her deep faith. Mary accepted God's greatest gift, Jesus. We thank Mary this Mother's Day for her faith and for taking such good care of Jesus. Mary is an example of a perfect steward because she shared all she had, especially the gift of Jesus, with all of us.

Draw a path connecting the words of our special prayer of thanks and love for Mary, our example of a perfect steward. Write the prayer in full at the bottom of this page.



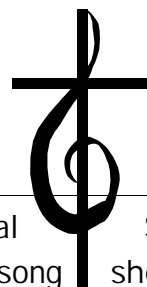
HAIL YOU BLESSED
 IS WITH GRACE
 MARY ARE YOU
 FULL OF AMONG
 THE LORD WOMB WOMEN
 AND
 BLESSED PRAY FOR US
 JESUS
 IS THE OF GOD
 FRUIT OF YOUR HOLY MARY
 MOTHER
 NOW AND
 HOUR SINNERS
 AT THE OF OUR
 AMEN DEATH

Just In Case Ya Missed it...

The Doctors are In!!



We have copies of both the Dr. Thomas Groome ICSC keynote address – “*Stewardship: As Educating For Life*” and the Dr. Elinor Ford keynote address from our own Spring, 2000 Stewardship Training Days – “*Adults and Youth Living as God’s Stewards*” (available one per parish). Please call 516-763-6795 for your parish’s copy. (We’re in the process of sending out Dr. Ford’s video to all those who already called – no need to call again!)



The original Stewardship Jubilee song sheet music, “*Renewed in Christ*” is still available for your parish. Please call us for your copy.

Hey!

If you know of anyone who you think would benefit from receiving our newsletter, please let us know.

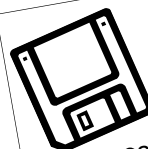


Celebrate Ministry!

In consultation with the Office of Worship, we have created a new version of the Litany of Ministries! If your litany needs a little boost, give us a call. We’ll send you the new version for you to customize according to your own parish needs.



Available on Disk!



All current graphics, logos and the Spring, 2000 renewal letters are available on diskette. How do you get ‘em? Just call! P.S. Also available on the web - www.stewardshipli.org/lead.html

On the Web!



Our web site is packed full of information, links, and events! Check us out at www.stewardshipli.org and for more “stuff” visit our special leadership pages at www.stewardshipli.org/lead.html If you would like us to link your parish’s web site to ours, let us know.

Visit a Gathering Near You!

St. Claire Group
Thursday, June 8
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
St. Ignatius Loyola, Hicksville
Host: Eileen Byrnes-Thomson

St. Lucy Group
Thursday, June 15
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
St. Patrick, Bayshore
Host: Wendy Wessler

Please
R.S.V.P.
516-763-6795

St. Basil Group
Saturday, June 24
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
St. John the Baptist, Wading River
Host: Deacon Fred Finter

Please
R.S.V.P.
516-763-6795

Are You “In the Loop?”

If you use PDS, you’ll enjoy the “In the Loop” user network. You will receive a quarterly tip, procedure or idea submitted by other members from our own parishes. This is a great way to share the knowledge and experience of our own PDS users! Simply call us and say, “I want to be ‘In the Loop!’”

Alive
in the
Spirit!

A Diocesan-wide
Jubilee 2000 Event
Sunday, June 11, 2000
at the Nassau Coliseum

