

CONNECTIONS

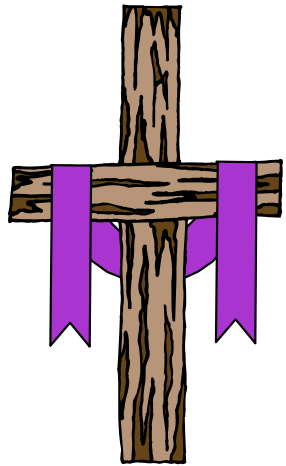
A Communication Vehicle of the Office of Parish Stewardship Diocese of Rockville Centre New York

Stewardship

A Way of Life

** Special Issue Lent, 2011 **

*“Turn Away from Sin and
be Faithful to the Gospel...”*



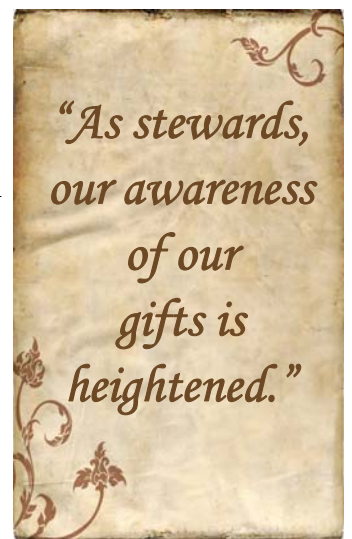
With these words, our Lenten journey began. We are invited, once again, to rediscover our baptismal promises to reject

sin and to profess our faith. We are called to conversion and renewal by turning away from sin, away from those things that cause us to live in a way that is less than God intends. We are challenged to turn toward Christ. We are challenged to discover and recognize our giftedness - to live our own unique calling - and fulfill our role in God’s plan for building the Kingdom. This is a daily embrace of what is “good,” of what is “right,” of what is stewardship.

Stewardship, simply put, means to responsibly take care of something entrusted to us. Christian stewardship clarifies the “something.” Our lives and all that is in them are gifts whose care is entrusted to us by God. These gifts need our responsible care and faith-motivated action.

During these 40 days and beyond, we incorporate more deeply the Lenten disciplines of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. As stewards, our awareness of our gifts is heightened. We enter into a time of:

- * conscious accounting of what we have received;
- * adjusting how we have used those gifts; and,
- * moving forward on our life journey through conversion and increased giving of ourselves.



May this Lenten journey bring us new insights into our own giftedness, open us up to increased ways of sharing our gifts with those around us and help us to belong more deeply to Christ and one another in His Church.

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Time and Talent Renewal at St. Christopher's, Baldwin

Submitted by Pat Giesow, Stewardship Coordinator

At St. Christopher's Parish, Baldwin, we began our Spring Time and Talent Renewal a bit early. Msgr. Steven Camp, our pastor, wished to offer any parishioner who wanted to join a parish ministry the opportunity to be able to join "right in" the current activities before the distractions of the warmer months.

Our chosen theme was "Gifted and Called." We utilized a great deal of publicity with the special home mailings, brochures, bulletin announcements and announcements from the pulpit. There were also homilies from our priests and deacons which connected the Sunday's readings to our theme and to Stewardship.

Spring, 2011 Time and Talent Renewal Calendar

Sat./Sun., June 4/5:
Stewardship Awareness Weekend

Monday, June 6:
First Parish Mailing

Sat./Sun., June 11/12*:
Diocesan Celebration Weekend (Pentecost)

Sat./Sun., June 18/19:
Parish Gifts Celebration Weekend

Monday, June 20:
Second Parish Mailing

Sat./Sun., June 25/26:
Commitment Weekend (Corpus Christi)

*The Diocesan Gifts Celebration will be a public show of gratitude for all the many gifts God has given us. Please consider connecting this special event in some way with your own parish celebration. For instance, consider inviting your parish representatives who attended the diocesan celebration to share their experience with your own parish community during your Renewal.

For visual interest, we hung 40 posters around the church with the name of each ministry and an artistic symbol depicting that ministry. While ministry leaders continued to meet and plan, we also conducted training sessions for our Lay Witness speakers.

Lay Witness is a key element for any stewardship renewal effort and their talks were presented on Awareness Sunday and Celebration Sunday. On each day at the end of all Masses, fellow parishioners would speak on how they first became involved in a ministry and what that involvement did for them and their spiritual growth. The impact of so many different individuals with such diverse (and wonderful) stories encouraged other parishioners to seriously consider how they could put their own gifts at service to the wider parish community.

Coached very well by Laurie Whitfield, Diocesan Director of the Office of Parish Stewardship, our parishioner-speakers achieved a comfort level by preparing for the task ahead. Laurie's own gifts as an educator/presenter provided professional insight, fostered each speaker's story-telling and encouraged them to see themselves as gifted!

On Celebration Sunday we hosted a Hospitality celebration after each morning Mass. The following weekend, on Commitment Sunday, we presented a Parish Ministries Fair. All of the ministries had tables and ministry members available to share their experiences. At the conclusion of our Time and Talent Renewal, well over 70 individuals from the parish had committed to 90 different roles in parish ministries! The entire experience brought the parish together by helping parishioners to see how God's gifts are being shared. It was hard work, but equally inspiring and enjoyable!

**"It was hard
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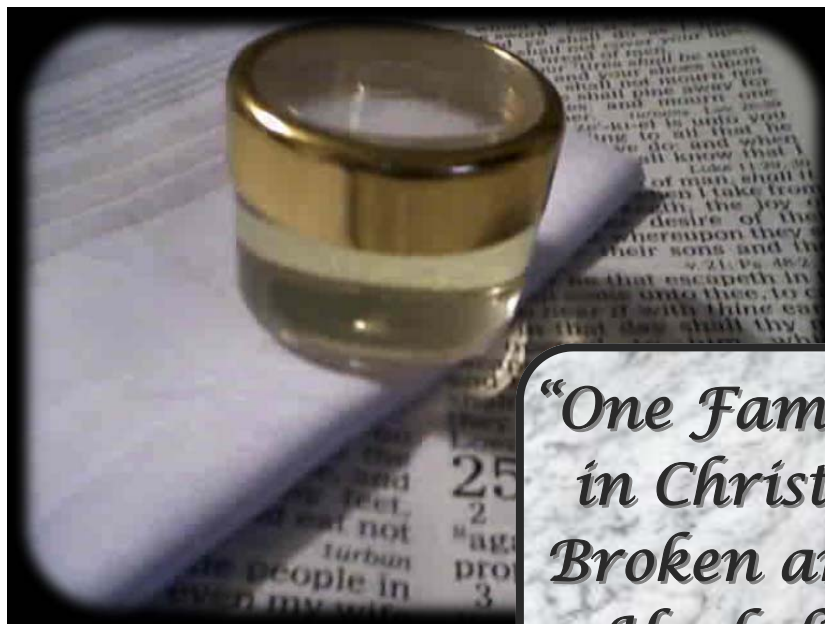
The Office of Parish Stewardship of
the Diocese of Rockville Centre invites you to the...

Spring Renewal Mini-Retreats

Spring is a perfect time to refresh, rejuvenate and renew yourself.
It's a time-to take time-for you as a parish leader, a faith-filled Christian
and a steward on the journey of giftedness.

We are fortunate to have as our retreat leader this Spring,

Reverend Joseph V. Agostino, C.M.



*"One Family
in Christ -
Broken and
Healed"*

Choose one of the two available sessions and register online at www.stewardshipli.org -or-
Complete and fax the reverse side of this flyer to (516) 379-3234 -or-
Give us a call! (516) 379-4055 x3
Register today! Space is limited!

Wednesday, May 11, 2011, Our Lady of Grace Spiritual Center, Manhasset
9:15 a.m. (registration)– 3:30 p.m. (*Lunch included*)

Thursday, May 12, 2011, Our Lady of the Isle Shrine, Eastport/Manorville
9:15 a.m. (registration) – 3:30 p.m. (*Lunch included*)



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2011 Spring Stewardship Mini-Retreat Registration

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____ Day Phone: _____

Your complete mailing address: _____
Your address should be as it appears on your "Connections" Newsletter.

Is the address you provided a Home Address? _____ or a Parish Address? _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Parish Name: _____ Parish Town: _____

I Will Attend the Spring Mini-Retreat as follows:

Please place a checkmark next to the date for which you will attend.

Wednesday, May 11, 2011
9:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Our Lady of Grace Spiritual Center
Manhasset
(Lunch included)
Maximum Attendance: 40

Thursday, May 12, 2011
9:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Our Lady of the Isle Shrine
Eastport/Manorville
(Lunch included)
Maximum Attendance: 75

Please return this form to us by May 2, 2011:

- a) BY FAX: (this side only) (516) 379-3234
- b) BY MAIL: Parish Stewardship, 200 W. Centennial Ave., Suite 202,
Roosevelt, NY 11575
- c) BY PHONE: (516) 379-4055 x3
- d) ON THE WEB: www.stewardshipli.org

***N.B.** It's very important to register and attend that day because of the limited space at each location. If you need to make a change or cancel your registration, please let us know as soon as possible to avoid unnecessary expense.

**** Printable directions are available online at www.stewardshipli.org**



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“GIVING PEOPLE ARE HAPPY PEOPLE”

Submitted by Judy Granville and Laura Giardino
Stewardship Coordinators at St. Thomas More, Hauppauge

“Giving People are Happy People” was the theme of a recent presentation at St. Thomas More church in Hauppauge.

Offered as a Fall Stewardship event, this Celebration of Ministries was open to all Ministry Leaders as well as the parish at large.

Following the 9 a.m. Mass and hospitality, Mr. Jim Ryan, author of the book *Simple Happiness: 52 Easy Ways to Lighten Up*, presented the inspiring and thought-provoking message that we are all responsible for our own happiness.

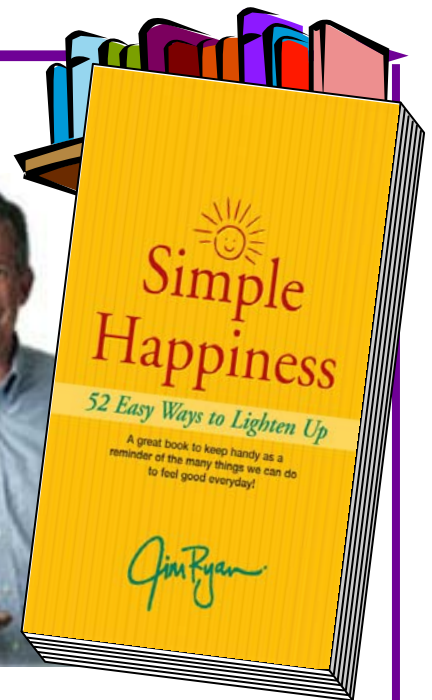
In a warmly received talk, Mr. Ryan discussed the many characteristics of “happy people.” Some of those traits are:

- a. knowing how to show compassion and appreciation;
- b. living life as a “giving” person;
- c. believing in the pursuit of happiness by knowing what makes us happy and pursuing those interests.

Fully engaged with his audience, Mr. Ryan used stories, humor and even song to present his message. Many of the individuals gathered that morning are involved in various ministries throughout St. Thomas More parish, so Mr. Ryan’s message resonated loud and clear. As a stewardship parish, we are already a “giving people” and this affirmed our way of life in so many ways! One of his most memorable messages is that “Life is series of choices. It’s not so much the circumstances that come our way, but how we deal with those circumstances that makes all the difference.” Here’s to the Simple Happiness of sharing our God-given gifts!

Thank so much to Judy and Laura for sharing this enlightening day with us! Mr. Ryan can be reached at www.JimRyanTalks.com or call 866.JIM.RYAN.

You may also sign up for his daily online “A-HA! MOMENTS” – you will be inspired!



May we join in
Celebration of the
Resurrection of
Jesus as
“One Family
in Christ!”





Office of Parish Stewardship

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C O N N E C T I O N S

Stewardship affects all aspects of what we say and do as Church.

New Spring Mini-Retreats!



Wednesday
May 11, 2011

9:15 am - 3:30 pm
Our Lady of Grace
Retreat Center
Manhasset

Thursday
May 12, 2011

9:15 am - 3:30 pm
Our Lady of the Isle
Shrine & Retreat Centre
Eastport/Manorville

Registration Form Inside!

Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks compassion on this world. Christ has no body now on earth but yours. - St. Teresa of Avila

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