

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

Stewardship

A Way of Life

Special Issue - Thanksgiving, 2011



“What do you say?”



Since we were very young, we were taught that if someone gave us something, even something intangible, we were to acknowledge the action. More often than not someone older than we who witnessed the action would

immediately and probably without thought ask, “What do you say?” Our conditioned response was (and probably still is!) “Thank you!” Think about it...when someone hands us something or holds the door for us or blesses us when we sneeze or passes the ketchup...we respond “thank you.” We acknowledge the “gift giver,” we make a connection between what we have received and from whom it came and we offer our gratitude.

Let’s couple this with our upcoming holiday. Thanksgiving is a national day of thanks for all that we have and to commemorate the first abundant harvest. Though there are many details that differ about Thanksgiving, overall, it is a day to celebrate the good harvest and give thanks to God. We often associate the image of the cornucopia or the horn of plenty with thanksgiving as a symbol of abundance, wealth and prosperity. I wonder if after the first

harvest, any of the pilgrims asked, “What do we say?” It was a part of them to give thanks to God for the harvest and all other things as well for that matter. As much as they could pat themselves on the back for a job well done, they were aware that their gifts, success and drive came from God - that God is the Source of all that follows.

As Christian stewards, it is a part of us too. Our gratitude is an irrepressible response from the heart! Conscious of the many gifts around us, we live each day as if it were Thanksgiving - life in Christ is a cornucopia of gifts! When we wake up in the morning or when we greet others or when we merge successfully on the parkway or when we ourselves have ketchup to pass...what do you say? We should and do give thanks. Yes, we work hard for what we have and for what we accomplish, but we don’t do it (or anything) alone. God is with us every step of the way. We must acknowledge the “Gift Giver.” We make a connection between what we have received and from Whom it came and we offer our gratitude.

“We must acknowledge the ‘Gift Giver.’ We make a connection between what we have received and from Whom it came and we offer our gratitude.”

This Thanksgiving, let us become ever more aware of God in our lives - recognized and acknowledged as the Source of all. For every moment of every day, focus on the good and know that we are abundantly blessed.

“What do you say?”



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International Catholic Stewardship Council

"Renewed, Refreshed and Rewarded!"

The International Catholic Stewardship Council is preparing to celebrate 50 years of stewardship formation! Still going strong after all these years the ICSC is our partner in the mission of spreading the gospel message of stewardship as a way of life.

Each year, our diocese participates in many ways in the International Catholic Stewardship Council's efforts and especially in the annual conference. Over the years and still today, this office and our parish leaders have served on several committees, received awards for excellence and have presented several sessions in multiple tracks. This year in Orlando, five representatives from our diocese joined with over 1,200 participants from around the globe to pray, share and learn about stewardship. We wanted to share with you a bit of their experience. This issue, we will hear from Jane Zollo, Stewardship Director at St. Joseph Church in Babylon.

One of the most interesting and exciting elements of being part of a new endeavor is not knowing what to expect and being open to the new experiences it brings. Being a (relatively) new Stewardship Director and a first time attendee to the ICSC Stewardship Conference, that was most certainly the case for me!

The Conference took place over the course of 3 1/2 days, with over 1,200 parish leaders from Peoria to Puerto Rico, Colorado to Canada all

converging in Orlando last month. A total of 80 sessions were offered in 10 tracks, ranging from workshops for those parishes just beginning their stewardship efforts to tracks for diocesan professionals. All tracks were open to everyone. There was even a track that focused on new ideas and innovations for parishes! Best of all were the opportunities during the conference to meet with other parish leaders, connecting with them to compare notes, discuss what's working (and sometimes what's not) as well as to talk to representatives from over 40 companies that have faithfully supported our Catholic stewardship efforts for years.

"...if you can find a way to go, do it!"

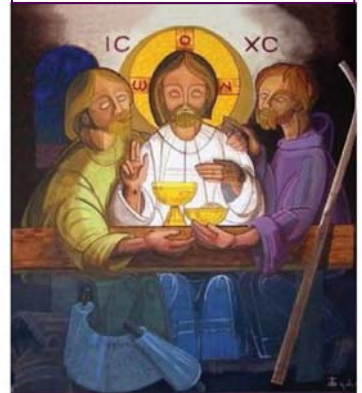
What can I say one week after having returned from the conference?

From the still resounding inspirational words of speakers Lou Holtz and Bishop Robert Morneau, to the energy and powerful spirituality of the liturgies, the memories of this conference will remain with me long after I've unpacked my bag (which I still have yet to do!) Even more valuable than the memories, the conference provided a forum of creative ideas that I can now bring to my Parish so that we can continue to grow in our stewardship journey.

Next year's conference is in September in Chicago. My message to all stewardship parish leaders: if you can find a way to go, do it! You will be renewed, refreshed and rewarded!

Please consider joining us in Chicago for this wonderfully uplifting, informative and renewing event!

**Celebrate
50 Years!!
2012 Chicago**



**With Hearts
on Fire**

*Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?
~ Luke 24:32*



of Teaching Stewardship

**ICSC 2012
Annual Conference**

Chicago, Illinois
September 16~19, 2012



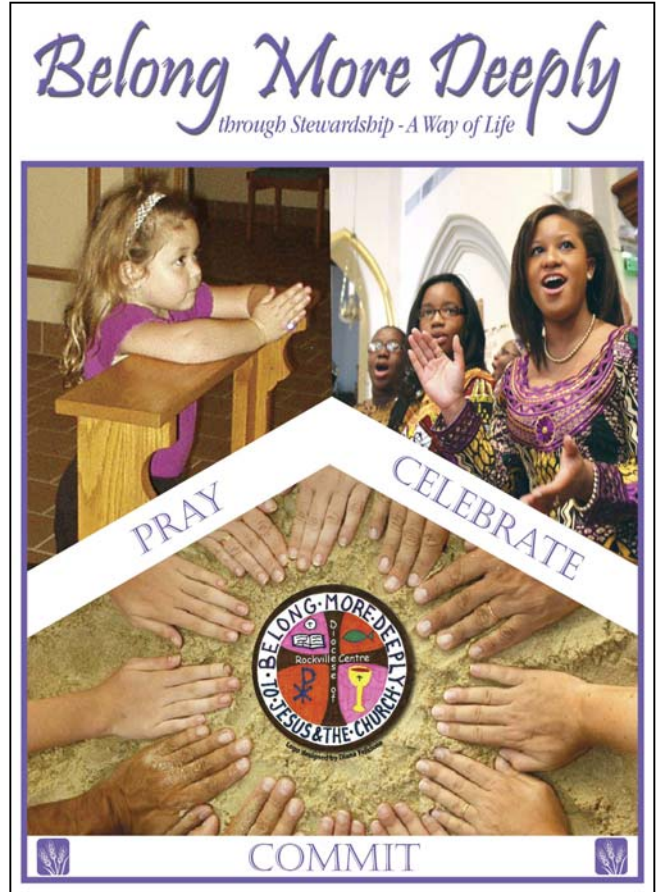
Belong More Deeply

...through Stewardship - A Way of Life

Though our Fall Stewardship Renewal is coming to a close, we hope you will consider extending the “Belong More Deeply” theme throughout the coming Liturgical year. This theme, authored by Bishop Murphy, lends itself beautifully to endless stewardship connections. We have received tremendous feedback from those parishes who chose this theme for their renewal this Fall. Why not continue the enthusiasm?!

Our Liturgical year is filled with rich opportunities to deepen our faith and answer our call to stewardship action. Beginning this Advent, we have the opportunity to catechize and make life connections through the introduction of the Third Edition of the Roman Missal. Share with others a renewed enthusiasm for the beauty and power of our Faith.

Let us use each moment throughout this year and beyond as an invitation for us all to rekindle our love for our Sacred Liturgy, to live what we profess as stewards of God’s gifts and to Belong More Deeply to Christ, to His Church and to one another.



For posters and other support materials for **Belong More Deeply**, give us a call at 516-379-4055 x3 or order online at www.stewardshippli.org



This Thanksgiving,
let us become ever more aware that
life in Christ is a cornucopia of gifts!
Take the time to recognize and
acknowledge Him as the Source of all!
A blessed Thanksgiving Day
to you and yours.





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CONNECTIONS

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

A Stewardship Prayer for Thanksgiving

-from the ICSC

Heavenly Father,
We give you thanks
for the inspiration of your Holy Spirit as
we reflect on the Gospel call
to exercise Christ's stewardship
on our journey of faith.

We ask you to guide us
in our discernment,
and show us how to be faithful
in the plans we make,
the actions we take,
and the love we share
on our pilgrim way.

Give us the courage
to find wisdom in our sacrifices,
joy in our generosity,
and hope in the compassion we show,
especially to those most in need
of your comfort and care.

And create in us a more open heart
and a greater awareness of our need
to grow, to change, to be transformed,
so that we may be better stewards
of your gifts for the good of all.

We pray this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

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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