

Giving Discovering Responding Praising Forgiving
 Feeding Thanking Sheltering Deciding Evangelizing
 Praying Clothing Building Renewing Creating Nurturing
 Celebrating Comforting Building Renewing Creating Nurturing
 Caring Forming
 Loving Sharing Inviting Visiting Growing Serving

Stewardship CONNECTIONS

Office of Parish Stewardship, Diocese of Rockville Centre, NY
 April, 2016

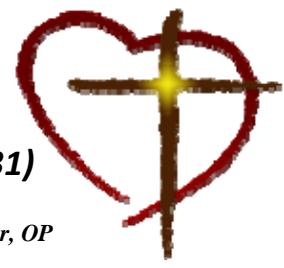
A Jubilee Year of Mercy!

This month's Jubilee Connection comes from our longtime friend and Stewardship advocate, Sister Marjorie McGregor, OP! Sr. Marjorie is the former Stewardship Coordinator at Sacred Heart in North Merrick. Her ministry now includes Spiritual Direction; Retreat Leader for days/weekends; RENEW International, Presenter and StrengthsFinder Program! Contact Sister Marjorie at 631-943-7177. Thank you Sister Marjorie!!



Stewardship Connections

April, 2016



“We are witnesses of these things...” (Acts 5:31)

By Sister Marjorie McGregor, OP

In this Easter season of joy and hope, we are energized and filled with the grace of the Risen Jesus. We want to be all that God wants us to be and yet so many times we fail. However, the loving Lord takes us by the hand, picks us up, embraces us (imperfections and all), gifting us with courage and faith-filled hearts to continue on this life's precious journey. As we reflect on the life of Jesus we see modeled for us a life of care and mercy for the other - the expression of the Father's love for each and all of us. Easter grace, the motivating power of our God, moves us ever closer to the realization of this tremendous love, as our daily actions reflect our care for one another.

We attempt, as steward disciples, to focus our lives and open our hearts ever wider to the reality that we are not owners, as such, but rather trusted disciples who have been given resources and the care of everything – creation, gifts and talents, money, time... . As witnesses of God's love and mercy, we are called to be heralds of the Good News of the Gospel today. The corporal and spiritual works of mercy point the way to a deepened Christian way of life. By simple, yet powerful gestures towards the other, we accompany the needy, bringing God's tenderness and consolation. In a sense, then, love resembles the light of a candle. For, in paying forward the gift of love (light) we have received, the sharing of that love (light) can only mean that there is more love (light) in the world for all of us.

**May we spread the hope and joy and strength of Jesus' Resurrection,
 asking the Risen Lord to keep us faithful steward disciples,
 fearless and hope-filled in God's service.
 May God strengthen our hearts, our hands and our homes
 for this life-giving journey.**



A Way of Life

Gifts Celebrations!

Those parishes who honored their ministries with a large celebration this past year.

Our Gifts Celebrations continue this month with St. Martin of Tours Parish in Amityville! Almost one year ago, St. Martin built their Stewardship Renewal around the Feast of Corpus Christi! Their theme, **“We are the Body of Christ,”** permeated the renewal through many different activities. We are always excited to see what Mary Buschman, Stewardship Coordinator, and her team have in store for Stewardship Renewal!!

Becoming the Body of Christ!



As part of a larger Stewardship renewal of Time and Talent, we at St. Martin of Tours in Amityville choose to celebrate how the shared gifts of the community serve one another and build-up the Kingdom of God here on earth with a Gifts Celebration. Our celebrations alternate each year between a traditional ministry fair and a litany of ministries. In 2015, it was time for the fair!

The Gifts Celebration process began in the preceding autumn with meetings involving all heads of ministries and continued through the winter and into the following spring. Because of other parish needs and the Memorial Day holiday weekend, our Pastor - Fr. Gerard Gordon - suggested we advance the celebratory date to Corpus Christi weekend. Accordingly, we planned our Celebration around the theme of “We Are the Body of Christ.”

After each Mass, parishioners



A Way of Life

Gifts Celebrations! (Continued)

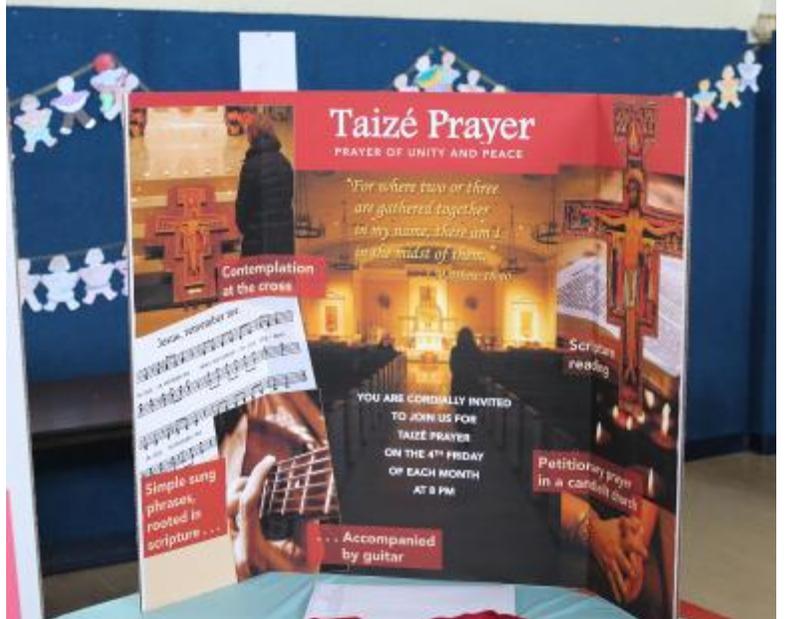
were invited to participate in a procession to the Parish Center for a Eucharistic Blessing with the Blessed Sacrament. This visual connection between the Eucharist and ministry really drove home and symbolized our Stewardship. We receive the Body of Christ in order to become the Body of Christ in the world by sharing our gifts in service to one another. This is not only through parish ministry, but in our daily lives as well.

Additionally, there were displays of all the ministries, along with hospitality and coloring activities for children. Brochures describing each ministry were available and people were encouraged to explore or even “sign-up” if they were interested in sharing their gifts in a particular ministry. All who did so, as well as those who committed or were interested on the following weekend, were contacted by the Ministry Leader. This contact was a key follow-up to those who had expressed their desire to serve within a particular ministry.

For those parishioners already involved in ministry, a happy outcome became apparent from our gifts celebrations through the years - the addition of new ministries and the opportunity for those already committed to ministry to witness, all together in one space, the variety of gifts offered in service to our parish community.

One of the highlights this year in addition to the procession, was an art contest for children to design the Sunday Bulletin covers for the three weekends of the renewal - Pentecost, Holy Trinity and Corpus Christi. Three “winners” were selected to be published and the remaining entries were displayed at the Gifts Celebration for all to see and enjoy (winners pictured on next page).

Each year we ask our ministry leaders to complete a post-celebration evaluation. This year it revealed a desire to try something different next time, perhaps using a more “high-tech” approach; this will certainly be considered. Stay tuned!



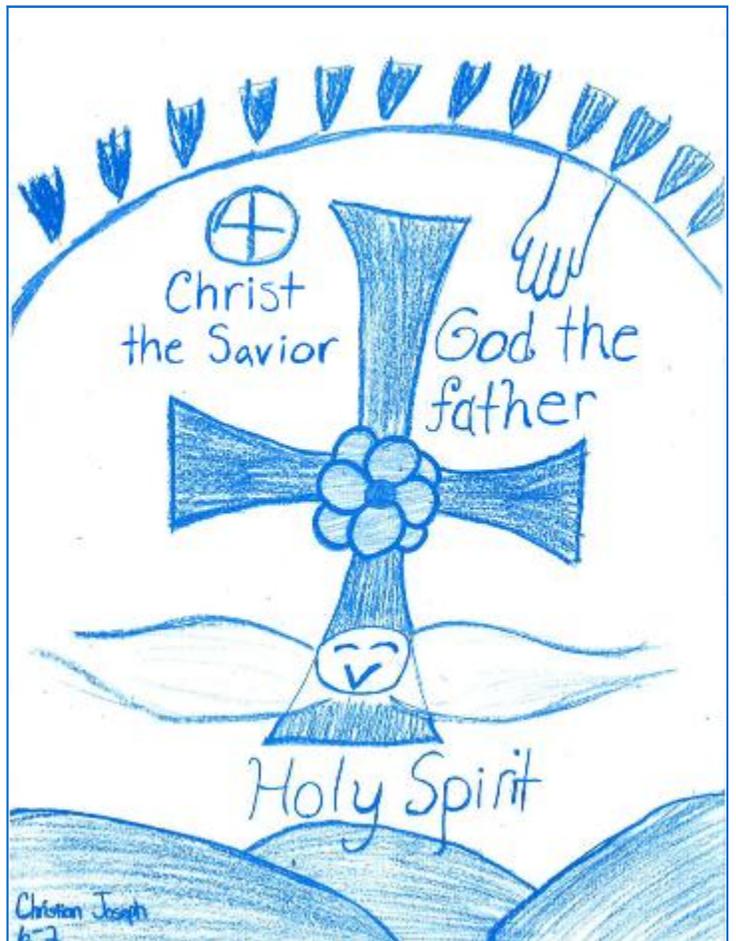
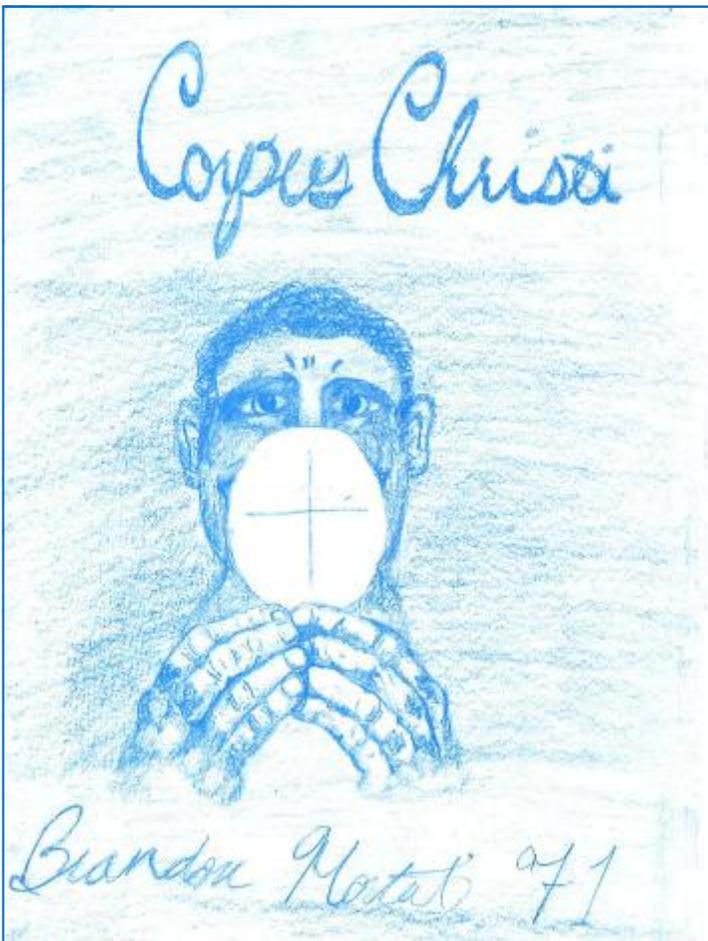
↓ St. Martin of Tours school children participated by completing the phrase, “The Gift I bring to the Body of Christ is...” These hung throughout the fair as witness and inspiration to all!!



A Way of Life

Gifts Celebrations! (Continued)

Bulletin Cover Art Contest Winners!



A Way of Life

Flashback!

Time and Talent Renewal is right around the corner! Here are some tips and resources to help make your Renewal both fun and effective! This article originally appeared in March, 2009!

Time and Talent Renewal

In just a few weeks, parishes across our diocese will once again enter into a process of stewardship renewal.

- ☐ *What gifts has our generous God blessed me with to contribute to the building of the Kingdom?*
- ☐ *How have I used and shared my gifts this past year?*
- ☐ *What steps can I take to better steward these gifts and efforts?*
- ☐ *When will I take action?*

Catholics all over our diocese will be asking these questions and more as they rededicate themselves individually and communally to a plan of action.

Time and Talent Renewal!

The four weekend process, outlined right, is very deliberately assembled. Each weekend and the supporting materials are all geared toward creating a process/journey for your parishioners. A journey, if you will, to create a favorable space for God's grace to be embraced and the conversion to action to happen.

We begin with an awareness, a bringing to consciousness of how we have shared our God-given gifts to help promote God's kingdom this year. We celebrate in thanksgiving and are presented with opportunities to share our gifts in the parish and, hopefully, beyond. Then we are asked to consider, perhaps, doing more. We commit to our decision.

Time and Talent Renewal takes place differently in each parish, but the outcome should be the same:

- ◆ We have been gifted by God!
- ◆ We have a responsibility to share what we have been given!
- ◆ We celebrate with joy and thanksgiving!
- ◆ We commit to and are responsible for real action!

Visit www.stewardship.org - Special Leadership Section to place your Renewal Materials order. Then click on the Renewal Resources box. You will find many helpful planning sheets, handouts and materials including:

- Customizable Litany of Ministries!
- Time and Talent PowerPoint!
- Ministry Directory Starter Template!
- And more...



Or give us a call. We would be delighted to chat with you over the phone or even join your next stewardship committee meeting to brainstorm and share some of the experiences of the parishes in our diocese and elsewhere! 516-379-4055 x3.

We wish all of you a successful and joy-filled Stewardship Renewal!

Spring, 2016 Time and Talent Renewal Calendar

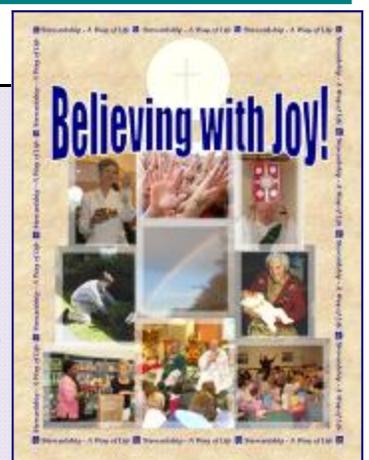


- Sat./Sun., May 7/8:**
Stewardship Awareness Weekend
- Monday, May 9:**
First Parish Mailing
- Sat./Sun., May 14/15:**
Gifts Celebration Weekend
(Pentecost)
- Monday, May 16:**
Second Parish Mailing
- Sat./Sun., May 21/22:**
Commitment Weekend
- Sat./Sun., May 28/29:**
Follow-Up Weekend
Memorial Day Weekend*

**Depending on the attendance in your particular parish on this weekend, you may wish to change your calendar accordingly.*

Current Theme!

- ☐ Posters
- ☐ Prayer Cards
- ☐ Bulletin Inserts
- ☐ Letters
- ☐ Thank You Cards
- ☐ Take-A-Step
- ☐ Commitment Cards
- ☐ Program Outline
- ☐ Homily Hints
- ☐ Announcements
- ☐ Intercessions
- ☐ Graphics
- ☐ Materials CD
- ☐ Planning Meetings
- ☐ Night of Reflection



Other Themes Available!



A Way of Life

For Your Calendar!

There are a couple of things going on that our Office is involved with and we wanted you to know about them. Mark your calendars accordingly!



Stewardship Leadership Gatherings

Our Guest Speaker(s) for June will be Liturgical Publications, Inc. (LPI)

Tuesday, June 21, 2016
St. Sylvester, Medford
9:00am-2:00pm

9:00 am Registration
w/refreshments
10:00 am Program

☉ Lunch will be served! ☉

Don't forget to R.S.V.P.
@ 516-379-4055x3
or stewardship@drvc.org



Network! Learn! Grow in our Catholic Faith!
The ICSC annual conference is widely recognized as the most valuable opportunity for those involved in Christian stewardship to connect with others who share their commitment to teaching stewardship as a way of life.

Sunday - Wednesday
October 2-5, 2016
New Orleans, Louisiana

Visit www.catholicstewardship.org

Call our office (before July 1st) for more information, special rates and to register!

516-379-4055 x3

**It's great to have ICSC
as our partner in the mission!**

You can't give what you do not have... Renew, refresh and recharge...

"Laurie gave an effective presentation that enabled our leaders to shift their thoughts from merely maintaining usual programs and procedures to more in depth involvement in the Mission!"

Msgr. Richard Figliozzi
Pastor
St. Catherine of Sienna
Franklin Square

"Come, Live in the Light!"

Your ministry stewards are regularly giving of themselves to serve and minister to others. From time to time, they too need to be ministered to. This is especially true after a Time and Talent Stewardship Renewal and Gifts Celebration.

In response to our parishes, we have created an opportunity to renew, refresh and recharge your ministers! We can tailor the session to meet your needs whether it's a little over an hour mini-retreat to a half-day reflection or even a full-day gathering!

Take the time to reaffirm the
joy in serving others while
feeding your own spirit!

For more information or to schedule a date, give us a call!
516-379-4055 x3 or E-mail: stewardship@drvc.org

Upcoming Dates

Let us know if you'd like it check it out!

May 9, 7:00 pm Our Lady of Peace Lynbrook	May 11, 7:00 pm St. Sylvester Medford
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"Seeing our Parish Ministry Leaders come together and truly open up and share was grand. Laurie encouraged everyone in the room to be part of the reflection and provided a sense of comfort and safe sharing. It was needed and well received. Personally, I was moved to see how we have moved ahead in our 'coordination and communication' among our leadership."

Marion Dreyfus
Stewardship Director
St. Catherine of Sienna
Franklin Square

**"Come, Live
in the Light!"**



**No Bushel
Baskets Here!!**



A Way of Life

Liturgical Resources

We hope you enjoy and utilize these Liturgical Resources for your Bulletin, Announcements and General Intercessions. Please know that they are also available on our website at www.stewardshipli.org → Special Leadership Section → This Week's Fax. (Note: Bulletin Reflections are taken from **Stewardship By the Book**, author Sharon Hueckel)

AT A GLANCE... May's Stewardship Resources for Liturgy

May 1 - 6th Sunday of Easter

Bulletin Reflection: Today's reading from Revelation offers a vision of the City of God, the new Jerusalem. The bishops' pastoral on stewardship reminds us, "that 'life to come' is in continuity with this present life through the human goods, the worthy human purposes, which people foster now."

Living Stewardship: We are grateful this week for all stewards who practice the corporal work of mercy - to clothe the naked - by making clothing donations to thrift stores, organizing a drive to send sport uniforms to children in developing countries or sacrificing the purchase of new clothing to donate to agencies that provide clothing to those in need.

General Intercession for Mass: That as merciful stewards, we embrace the opportunities to serve others as ways to live out our Baptismal promises, we pray to the Lord...✠



May 8 - 7th Sunday of Easter (Mother's Day)

Bulletin Reflection: Today's reading contains the somber warning that Jesus is coming soon and will bring each person the reward that his or her conduct deserves. Has my stewardship of the blessings entrusted to me been such that I could respond joyfully, "Amen!"?

Living Stewardship: We are grateful this week for all stewards whose giving - whether of alms or of service - becomes an expression of both spiritual and corporal works of mercy, making them missionaries of mercy to a world in such need of it!

General Intercession for Mass: That as dedicated stewards, we become a sign and an instrument of the Father's mercy, we pray to the Lord...✠



May 15 - Pentecost Sunday

Bulletin Reflection: One miracle of Pentecost was that, despite their diversity, each listener heard God's word in their own language. The meaning of Stewardship is that, by sharing the gifts poured out on us by the Holy Spirit, we will be empowered to meet the needs of our brothers and sisters, whatever they may be.

Living Stewardship: We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who practice works of mercy by taking care of, forgiving and helping each other.

General Intercession for Mass: That as fruitful stewards of God's gifts, we recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives, we pray to the Lord...✠

May 22 - The Most Holy Trinity

Bulletin Reflection: Today's Psalm reminds us that we have been crowned with glory and honor and given rule over the works of God's hands. But we must be good stewards, for the Lord will surely hold us accountable for the use of those gifts.

Living Stewardship: We are grateful this week for all stewards who respect and protect God's creation by recycling, planting trees and vegetables, keeping our neighborhoods free of litter and striving to be responsible and thoughtful consumers.

General Intercession for Mass: That as disciple stewards, we do our part to protect the earth and all that lives upon it, ensuring life for generations to come, we pray to the Lord...✠



May 29 - The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)

Bulletin Reflection: In today's gospel, the disciples suggest that Jesus disperse the crowd so that they might *individually* seek food and lodging. The miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 is Jesus' powerful reminder that when we share our gifts in His name there is always more than enough!

Living Stewardship: We are grateful this week for all stewards who continually develop their relationship with Jesus through prayer and the Eucharist.

General Intercession for Mass: That as good stewards, we receive the Body of Christ to become the Body of Christ in the world, we pray to the Lord...✠

