

One Family in Mission

Called to Evangelize



Formation



Hospitality



Prayer



Service

Office of Parish Stewardship August 2021

We are pleased to present our August issue of **ONE FAMILY IN MISSION** newsletter. We invite you - as part of that **FAMILY** - to share articles, best practices and any other items that you believe would benefit our community of Stewards. Please send them to tzalud@drvc.org.

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Called to Evangelize

If we're honest with ourselves, many of us would have to admit that using the witness of a canonized saint as a yardstick measure of our Dramatic Missionary Growth evangelization fulfillment can be rather intimidating-- or even downright demoralizing.

Take St. Maximilian Kolbe's reaction to the persecution he suffered at the hands of the Nazi's during World War II for example.

For Jesus Christ, I am prepared to suffer still more.

Praise God we have not been called to suffer as did this modern day Saint, so devoted to Our Lady, who died from a lethal injection on August 14, 1941 in a starvation bunker on the eve of his beloved Mother's Feast of the Assumption. Having felt compassion for a fellow prisoner, who was a father, St. Kolbe literally stepped up to take the place of that man who was condemned to an unjust death.

As the Gospel-inspired sacrifice of St. Kolbe's life shows, lovingly following in the Footsteps of Jesus requires generous suffering. And so, as we acknowledge the many kinds of everyday suffering still being experienced by ourselves and others, let's use the Saint's words to take a "still more" DMG evangelizing self-inventory and love commitment.

- For Jesus Christ, with the help of His Mother, am I prepared to be **formed** a little more closely to Jesus Christ? Am I willing, for example, to use the Formed Content suggestion associated with this newsletter article to learn a little more about myself and my Faith so that I can joyfully pass it on to others?

- For the sake of Jesus Christ, who calls me to be merciful as His Father is merciful, with the help of the Mother of God, am I ready to commit to showing more Christian **hospitality** to those in need of food, clothing, and

shelter, as well to those in need of words and deeds of companionship, empathy, and understanding? Also, as dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation in the Diocese of Rockville Centre will end this weekend, may we be more aware of extending hospitality and making all welcomed in our parish, especially to those who have been away from the church due to the pandemic.

- For the love of Jesus Christ, with the help of His Mother and our Mother Church, especially here in the DRVC, am I willing to **pray** more often and more earnestly—beyond my own needs? Am I willing to pray for the needs of strangers--and even perceived enemies--whom Jesus loves and died to save?

- For all the service Jesus Christ has done for me, with the help of His Mother, am I prepared to provide more humble volunteer **service** of my time and talents to others for His sake? And if I am financially able, will I joyfully offer to my parish and the Catholic Ministries Appeal more sacrificial giving of the monetary treasure the Lord has entrusted to me?

For Jesus Christ, I am prepared to suffer still more.

In the coming days, using the unique gifts and talents the Lord has given us, in what ways can each of us commit to exercising our pillars of stewardship for the love of Jesus by engaging in “still more” **formation, hospitality, prayer and service**—out of great gratitude and love for Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who loves each of us, *personally and infinitely*, each day?

In honor of the eightieth anniversary of St. Maximilian Kolbe's horrific concentration camp martyrdom, let's use his words and actions to encourage and inspire us to lovingly do our best, with Mother Mary's help, to peacefully commit to filling in the following DMG love commitment blank by making St Max's words uniquely our own.

For Jesus Christ, I am prepared to _____ still more.

This month of August, with its more leisurely pace, is a good time to begin living out our “still more” fill-in-the-blank DMG evangelization love commitment-- for love of God, neighbor, and self—all with Mother Mary's help.

Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"

Formed Stewardship Content of the Month

Each month, our office suggests Stewardship content from Formed.org that will help you grow in the faith! If you are not signed up with Formed.org, check with your parish to see if they have a subscription. This month, we recommend an audio session titled "*St. Philomena: A Saint for Our Times*" by Dr. Mark Miravalle.



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May God bless you and your loved ones!

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