

STEWARDSHIP BULLETIN REFLECTIONS
July 2018 – September 2018

July 1, 2018

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"...as a matter of equality your abundance at the present time should supply their want, so that their abundance may supply your want, that there may be equality." (2 CORINTHIANS 8:14)

We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of those around us. It is important that we not only grow, nurture and share our gifts; but that we also teach our children and encourage others to do the same. This is the communal aspect of our Catholic faith. We are the "Body of Christ". We are called to be dependent on each other and not live in isolation.

July 8, 2018

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"As the Lord spoke to me, the spirit entered me and set me on my feet, and I heard the one who was speaking say to me, 'Son of man, I am sending you...'" (EZEKIEL 2:2-3)

God asks each of us to do some special work for Him. He gives us the resources we need to do His work. However, do we listen to God when He calls? Do we get up on our feet and use our talent to do the work He asks of us? Remember, God doesn't call the equipped, he equips the called.

July 15, 2018

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick – no food, no sack, no money in their belts." (MARK 6:8)

How different we are from the Apostles who took nothing when they ventured out to serve God. Today, we make our life's journey more difficult because of all the material baggage that we drag along. When we really put God first in everything and put money and possessions second, we experience more freedom to joyfully serve God and others.

July 22, 2018

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"...come away by yourselves to a lonely place and rest awhile." (Mark 6:31)

Do you spend time, every day, alone and in silence listening to how God is calling you? If not, you are missing out on a wonderful opportunity to develop a more personal relationship with Him. Unless we talk and more importantly, listen to God every day, how else will we know how He is calling us? Consider making a retreat this year, spend some "alone" time with God.

July 29, 2018

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?"
(JOHN 6:9)*

The miracle of the Loaves and Fishes is the only miracle which is recorded six times in the Gospel. It carries two important messages. First, no matter how little we have, we always have enough to share. Second, Christ can take our humble gifts and do great things with them if we are just willing to let Him. No gift is too small or insignificant!

August 5, 2018

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Each day the people are to go out and gather their daily portion; thus will I test them, to see whether they follow my instructions or not." (EXODUS 16:4)

When the Israelites gathered more than their daily portion of manna, the surplus became wormy and rotten. In the same way today, self-reliance, pride and ego leads to hoarding and excessive surplus of goods and money. Living a stewardship lifestyle helps us discern our "wants" from our "needs". Living a generous lifestyle reminds us that God will provide all that we need and that we have plenty to share.

August 12, 2018

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Get up and eat, else the journey will be too long for you!" (1 KINGS 19:7)

Jesus knows that our stewardship journey will be difficult; we are not designed to do it on our own. Fortunately, Jesus gave us the greatest gift of all – the gift of the Eucharist; His own body and blood. When we join our sacrifices with the sacrifice of the Mass, we find the strength and courage to be His joyful disciples.

August 19, 2018

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Watch carefully then how you live, not as foolish persons but as wise..." (EPHESIANS 5:15)

A wise person recognizes that all we have and all we are comes from God. A wise person thanks God continually throughout the day for all His many blessings. A wise person realizes that God has blessed us for a reason and that He wants us to help Him build His kingdom of earth.

August 26, 2018

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

"If it does not please you to serve the Lord, decide today whom you will serve...As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." (JOSHUA 24:15)

When we commit to serve the Lord, we must be willing to become a partner in the work of the Lord. A partner is a person who invests time in prayer every day, joyfully participates in charitable works and generously supports the parish and Church mission. If we say we serve God, we must actually do something and not merely talk about it!

September 2, 2018

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Be doers of the word and not hearers only..." (JAMES 1:22)

It's easy to understand the definition of stewardship. The hard part is living it! What do you do to live God's word? Do you share your time in prayer with God? Do you use your talent to help those in need? Are you generous with your financial resources? If not, what are you waiting for?

September 9, 2018

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?" (JAMES 2:5)

What is more important – being rich in faith or rich in possessions? Society teaches us that possessions are most important. God teaches a different lesson. When we are rich in faith, we keep God first in all things and realize that material things really don't matter and that it's more important to share with those who have less.

September 16, 2018

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."
(MARK 8:34)*

When we truly believe that all we have is a gift from God, then we must be willing to give up some things so that we can share our blessings as God intended. Living a stewardship lifestyle means not only being responsible for our own life, but the lives of others as well.

September 23, 2018

Stewardship Awareness Sunday (Archdiocese of St. Louis)

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." (MARK 9:35)

Jesus teaches us that we are called to serve one another. Sacrifice is not a word that many people like to hear. We think it means that we must give up something that we want. However, the literal meaning of sacrifice is "to make holy," from the words "sacer" = sacred and "facere" = to make. In other words, we make our lives holy by sharing our gifts in the service of God.

September 30, 2018

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward." (MARK 9:41)

Does your life reflect the life of Jesus? Remember, we were made in His image. We tend to forget this. When others see you, do they see the face of Jesus? When you look at others, do you see the face of Jesus in them?