

## Suggested Stewardship Bulletin Inserts for September/October

September 2, 2007 (22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In the Gospel today, Jesus warns us not to give in hopes of repayment, but to give open-handedly to the poor and the needy. That sort of giving mirrors the bountiful giving of God, and Jesus assures us it is blessed indeed!

September 16, 2007 (24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

We can hear God speaking to us today in the words of the father to his elder son: "You are with me always, and everything I have is yours." What is my response to such remarkable generosity? Do I give joyfully and generously as God gives to me?

September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007 (26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The sin of the rich man in today's parable was not that he was rich, but that he failed to share his wealth with the beggar at his gate. He knew Lazarus, perhaps walked by him every time he came in or out, but did nothing to relieve his suffering. Is there a Lazarus in my life? What am I doing to help?

October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007 (27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

When will I have given enough – of my income, of my time, of my talents? Today's Gospel suggests that only **total** stewardship will do: "When you have done all you have been commanded, say 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what we were obliged to do.'"

October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007 (29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Today's theme is perseverance – Moses keeping his hands upraised throughout the battle, Paul urging Timothy to stay with the task of preaching and teaching, and the widow appealing to the corrupt judge. To be faithful stewards of God's gifts, we too must persevere in the roles to which we are called.

September 9, 2007 (23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Jesus tells the crowd that only those who renounce all of their possessions can be His disciples. Is He truly asking us to give up *everything*? Perhaps instead He is trying to help us see that everything we think we own is really a gift from God.

September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007 (25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The dishonest manager in today's parable knew how to manipulate money to his own advantage. But the Gospel warns that no one can serve both God and money. Which do I serve? Is my stewardship such that anyone can tell?

October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007 (28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Jesus healed ten lepers in today's Gospel. Only one (10%) came back to say thank you. I, too, have received many blessings from the Lord – indeed, all I am and all I have is gift! How and how often have I remembered to thank Him?

October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007 (30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Both the first reading and today's Psalm say clearly that the Lord hears the cry of the poor. Have I been given the gifts – of time or money or abilities - to be the means by which God answers their need?

**USCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities**  
**Respect Life Bulletin Briefs**  
**September 2007**

**September 1-2**

When leading experts who favor emergency contraceptive (EC) programs recently summarized 23 studies gauging the effect of such programs, they had to admit that *not one* of the 23 found a reduction in unintended pregnancies of abortions.

*Richard M. Doerflinger, "The Prevention Deception: How Not to Reduce Abortions," Respect Life Program (2007)*

**September 8-9**

Just as a mother or father dedicates a disproportionate amount of time and energy to a child who is sick, without for that reason loving their other children any less, Christians are called to focus their efforts preferentially toward the most needy and defenseless among us.

*Thomas D. Williams, L.C., "Abortion and Catholic Social Teaching," Respect Life Program (2007)*

**September 15-16**

It's hard to have a future "for our children and our children's children" without children, and in practice, Planned Parenthood specializes in the business of preventing them. Even more troubling is Planned Parenthood's long involvement in abortion "rights" and the lethal services associated with them. Helping women kill their unborn children abuses the real well-being of women. It also violates the dignity of unborn children in a brutally intimate and permanent way.

*Most Rev. Charles J. Chaput, column, Jan. 17, 2007*

**September 22-23**

Life is the primary good we have received from God, the foundation of all the others. Guaranteeing the right to life - for everyone and in the same way for everyone - is a duty upon which the future of humanity depends.

*Pope Benedict XVI, "Christian conscience in support of the right to life," Message to the 13th general assembly of the Pontifical Academy for Life (February 24, 2007)*

**September 29-30**

The Catholic Church teaches that every human being is composed of body and soul. It is the union of the body and the immortal soul, with its intellect and free will, that defines each person, who is unique and an expression of God's love.

*Pope John Paul II, Address in Japan (1981)*

**Office of Pro-Life, Marriage and Family**  
**Diocese of Youngstown**  
**NFP Bulletin Briefs**  
**September 2007**

**September 1-2**

Modern Natural Family Planning methods are scientifically accurate and especially useful for women with irregular cycles, during breastfeeding and pre-menopause. If you haven't taken an NFP course recently, you'll be amazed at the recent scientific advancements! Call 330-744-8451 ext. 289 to find an NFP instructor in your area.

**September 8-9**

Natural Family Planning is marriage insurance. Couples who practice NFP in their marriage have a divorce rate of less than 5%. Do you know a couple who is preparing for marriage? Encourage them to take a class in NFP. It may be one of the best wedding gifts they get!

**September 15-16**

Couples who practice NFP find that by discussing and prayerfully discerning their aspirations and concerns about the size of their family, they find it more easy to discuss and handle other issues in their marriages: finances, "in-law" strategies, how to rear their children, etc.

*Couple to Couple League Website*

**September 22-23**

Modern methods of Natural Family Planning are 99% effective at postponing pregnancy, even if you have irregular cycles. It's free to use and easy to learn! Call 330-744-8451 ext. 289 to sign up for an NFP course in your area.

**September 29-30**

We think the answer to the persistent question of why the Catholic Church is so opposed to unnatural birth control is perhaps too obvious. It harms us physically, psychologically, emotionally, and spiritually. The Church opposes it not only because it may cause us permanent damage, but also because it artificially removes the possibility of conception. NFP is good marriage insurance — a real piece of the rock on which to build a solid family foundation. Statistics support this marriage-building aspect of NFP. Couples who practice a natural form of child spacing have a divorce rate of less than 5%.

*Bob & Gerri Laird*

**EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS BULLETIN BRIEFS**  
**SEPTEMBER 2007**

**September 2, 2007**

*22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C*

In today's Gospel, Jesus told his dinner host to invite the poor, crippled, the lame and the blind to the banquet. The host will be blessed because of their inability to repay. Catechesis inspires us to reach out to the poor and needy. In them we encounter the living Christ, a blessing indeed!

**September 9, 2007**

*23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C*

St. Paul in today's Second Reading asks his friend, Philemon, to welcome back an escaped slave as a partner in the Lord. Catechesis is the work of the whole Church. We are all partners in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, evangelizing the world.

**September 16, 2007**

*24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C*

*Catechetical Sunday*

*Catechesis: Encountering the Living Christ*

Catechesis aims "to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ" (*National Directory for Catechesis*, no. 19B). This weekend the Church celebrates Catechetical Sunday, Catechesis: Encountering the Living Christ. Parishes around the country acknowledge all those involved in handing on the faith to adults, youth and children by commissioning and recognizing catechists. Catechetical Sunday reminds each of us that in Baptism we are charged with the responsibility of handing on the faith in all we do.

**September 23, 2007**

*25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C*

Jesus tells the parable of the rich man and his dishonest steward in today's Gospel. He wants us to be very clever in using our gifts and talents for his sake. This wise use of our resources gives witness to our faith in Christ and his Church. Remember to thank those who catechize or "echo" the Good News through their lived faith.

**September 30, 2007**

*26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C*

In today's First Reading, Amos warns against complacency towards the poor and hungry. "Catechesis leads people to enter the mystery of Christ, to encounter him, and to discover themselves and the meaning of their lives in him" (*National Directory for Catechesis*, no. 19B).

This encounter with Christ moves us to compassion for the poor. Deepen your encounter with Christ by attending the Evangelization and Catechesis Conference on October 20, 2007, at Kent State University Student Center. Visit [www.doy.org](http://www.doy.org) for more information.