

# Suggested Stewardship Bulletin Inserts for April / May

April 1, 2007 (Palm Sunday)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In today's Gospel story of the first Palm Sunday we hear that the owners of the colt had only to be told, "The Master has need of it," to give the animal gladly. Do I give as readily to the Lord's work?

April 15, 2007 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

"Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed," Jesus says in today's Gospel. For those who have not seen to believe, however, we must be good stewards of our faith, living it joyfully and sharing it generously.

April 8, 2007 (Easter Sunday)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In the second reading today, St. Paul reminds the Colossians that they have been raised with Christ, exhorting them to "Think of what is above, not of what is on earth." We too, have been raised with Christ. Let us rejoice and be glad!

April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007 (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In today's Gospel, Jesus says to Peter again and again, "Do you Love me? Tend my sheep." He says the same to each of us, "Do you love Me, use the gifts I have given to you to serve your brothers and sisters."

April 29, 2007 (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Paul and Barnabas encountered both violent rejection and joyful acceptance of the message that they preached. We, too, may meet with mixed reactions when we use our gifts in the service of God. But, the Gospel assures us, the reward for those who follow faithfully is eternal life.

May 6, 2007 (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives His disciples – and us – a new commandment: "Love one another." Good stewards who spend their time and talents in service to others are well on their way to fulfilling this commandment.

May 13, 2007 (6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Today's reading from Revelation offers a vision of the City of God, the new Jerusalem. But, the bishops' pastoral letter 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."

May 20, 2007 (7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The second reading today contains the somber warning that Jesus is coming soon and will bring to 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! Come, Lord Jesus!"?

May 27, 2007 (Pentecost)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

One miracle of Pentecost was that, despite their diversity, each listener heard God's word in his or her own language. The meaning for 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.

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

**March 31 – April 1**

We find delight in the beauty and happiness of children that makes the heart too big for the body.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

**April 7-8**

Every child who is born brings us God's smile and invites us to recognize that life is his gift, a gift to be welcomed with love and preserved with care, always and at every moment.

*Pope Benedict XVI, Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, 2007*

**April 14-15**

*As one created in the image of God, each individual human being has the dignity of a person; her she is not just something, but someone, capable of self-knowledge, self-possession, free self-giving and entering into communion with others. At the same time, each person is called, by grace, to a covenant with the Creator, called to offer him a response of faith and love that no other creature can give in his place.*

*Pope Benedict XVI, World Day of Peace Message, Jan. 1, 2007*

**April 21-22**

For far too long, and by far too many, the lives of people with disabilities have been undervalued or thought to be of a diminished dignity and worth. ... It is surely tragic that, wherever fetal defect is a precondition for offering or employing abortion, the same Convention created to protect persons with disabilities from all discrimination in the exercise of their rights, may be used to deny the very basic right to life of disabled unborn persons.

*Statement by Archbishop Celestino Migliore, concerning proposed U.N. convention on the rights and dignities of persons with disabilities, Dec. 13, 2006*

**April 28-29**

I wish to make an urgent appeal to the People of God: let every Christian be committed to tireless peace-making and strenuous defense of the dignity of the human person and his inalienable rights.

*Pope Benedict XVI, World Day of Peace Message, Jan. 1, 2007*

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

**March 31 – April 1**

Natural Family Planning takes the dignity of ordinary men and women seriously. It is sensitive to their needs and has experience of their weakness. But it knows how splendid is the greatness that can spring up in the human spirit. In fact, it is for the sake of this goodness and greatness that the universe was made.

*Father Ronald Lawler, O.F.M. Cap.*

**April 7-8**

Natural Family Planning has a lot of both physical and spiritual benefits, trusting in the Lord and allowing God to continue to work within our lives. We believe that God, who has called us to this point in life, is not going to abandon us but still works within our lives.

*Father Alan Okon*

**April 14-15**

It's never too late to turn our hearts back toward God. We are not powerless. We can make a difference by witnessing the truth about married love and fidelity to the culture around us.

*Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.*

**April 21-22**

What is the main reason, however, why contraception is wrong? It is wrong because it is human interference in an area that is God's domain.

*Monsignor Bob Guste*

**April 28-29**

Natural Family Planning is good news for marriages: it is necessary, it is helpful, it is practicable and it is beautifully providential.

*Father Pablo Straub, C.S.S.R.*