

# First Step for Change

## Parish Participation Form



- Pastors: find a dependable volunteer in your parish whom you trust to see this project through from start to finish. OR, decide to coordinate the project yourself (we've made the process as simple and painless as possible).
- Parish volunteers: make sure that you have your pastor's approval before agreeing to participate in the project.
- *First Step for Change* works a lot like Operation Rice Bowl, only instead of collecting change in a cardboard "rice bowl," you will collect it in a recyclable plastic baby bottle.

Pastor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parish: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

- \* We will participate in *First Step for Change*: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of bottles needed for the parish: \_\_\_\_\_

*Do you have bottles from last year? If so, reuse them this year and do not count them in the total number of bottles requested above.*

- \* We will not participate in *First Step for Change*: \_\_\_\_\_

*If your parish will be participating in First Step for Change, please provide the name, address and phone number of the person who will be responsible for coordinating the project at your parish.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

***Please return this form in the enclosed envelope  
on or before May 12, 2006.***

*Thank you for your interest in the work of Catholic Charities and for supporting the efforts of the Diocesan Office of Pro-Life Activities!*

Your support for  
  
Annual  
Bishop's Appeal  
helps make our  
work possible

## Suggested Stewardship Bulletin Inserts for April / May

April 2, 2006 (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

"If anyone would serve me," says Jesus in today's Gospel, "let him follow me, where I am, there will my servant be." In what ways is Jesus inviting me to follow Him? What service is He asking of me?

April 9, 2006 (Passion Sunday)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Good stewards strive to conform their lives to that of Christ – emptying themselves of all pride and putting themselves at the service of others.

April 23, 2006 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The Christian community described in Acts today understood and practiced stewardship. St. Paul reports that the believers did not claim anything in common, and distributed to each whatever was needed.

May 7, 2006 (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

To be good stewards we must be good shepherds, willing to lay down our lives for those committed to our care, not mere hired hands who run off, "leaving the sheep to be snatched and scattered by the wolf."

May 21, 2006 (6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Jesus' commandment is that His disciples love one another, even to the point of laying down their lives, if necessary. What gifts of myself—my skills and talents, my time and resources—will best demonstrate my love for God's people?

OR April 2, 2006 (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent YEAR A)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

When Jesus heard about the illness of His friend, Lazarus, He responded, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Every aspect of our lives-our sufferings as well as our gifts- can, if surrendered to Christ, lead to blessings for ourselves and others.

April 16, 2006 (Easter)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Alleluia! Christ is risen and is victorious over sin and death! We are good stewards of our faith if, like St. Paul, we share this good news whenever and wherever we can.

April 30, 2006 (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The disciples in today's Gospel came to know Jesus in the breaking of the bread. When we share what we have with those who are in need, we too, will discover Jesus in our midst.

May 14, 2006 (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In today's Gospel, Jesus says that God is glorified when a disciple, grafted in Christ, produces abundantly and bears much fruit. The disciple must then be a good steward of that abundance.

May 28, 2006 (7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Jesus is the perfect steward—watching carefully over all who had been entrusted to Him by the Father and then sending them all out into the world in service. May I similarly protect and wisely use the gifts entrusted to me!

# Intercessions for Life

APRIL 2006

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## **April 2<sup>nd</sup> FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

For those for whom age has become a burden,  
that we might cherish them, learn from them,  
and protect and nurture them every day;  
We pray to the Lord:

## **April 9<sup>th</sup> PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION**

For all who carry the cross with Christ:  
for the child killed through abortion,  
the old man with no one to love him,  
the sick woman we are ready to dispose of,  
and the child whom no one loves:  
that the mysteries of this Holy Week  
will give us the grace to love them:  
We pray to the Lord:

## **April 16<sup>th</sup> EASTER SUNDAY**

That the glory of this Easter morning  
will shatter the darkness of the Culture of Death,  
and transform the world with God's victorious light:  
We pray to the Lord:

## **April 23<sup>rd</sup> SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

That we might rejoice in the mercy of God,  
and pray for all who have sinned against life,  
that they might repent, God might forgive,  
and we might live with them in the joy of heaven:  
We pray to the Lord:

## **April 30<sup>th</sup> THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

For all who dwell in the shadow of death,  
and especially for those who languish on death rows:  
that they might turn from their sin,  
and trust in the justice and mercy of God;  
We pray to the Lord:



**“We can say that also in our time a 'no' is necessary to the prevailing culture of death, an anti-culture that manifests itself, for example, in the escape in drugs...Escape from reality in the illusory, in a false happiness that manifests itself in lies, in fraud, in injustice, in contempt for others, for solidarity, for responsibility vis-à-vis the poor and the suffering.”**

Pope Benedict XVI, Homily for the Baptism of the Lord, 2006

**[Children] have the right to be born and to be raised in a family  
founded on marriage.**

Pope Benedict XVI, Address at Meeting on Family and Life Issues in Latin America, Dec. 3, 2005

**...los hijos tienen el derecho de nacer y crecer en el seno de una familia  
fundada sobre el matrimonio**

Papa Benedicto XVI, discurso a los presidentes de las comisiones episcopales para la familia y la vida de América Latina, 3 de diciembre de 2005

**As Catholics we know that the truth of human life is infinitely greater than  
any narrow view that dismisses some lives as disposable.**

Cardinal William H. Keeler, Respect Life Sunday, October 2, 2005

**Por ser católicos sabemos que la verdad sobre la vida humana es infinitamente superior a  
la verdad de una estrecha visión que descarta la validez de algunas vidas.**

Cardinal William H. Keeler, Domingo Respetemos la Vida, Octubre 2, 2005

**[The] elimination of embryos or their arbitrary use in the name of scientific progress, which fails to recognize its own limits and to accept all the moral principles that make it possible to safeguard the dignity of the person, becomes a threat to the human being who is reduced to an object or a mere instrument. When such levels are reached, society itself is affected and every kind of risk shakes its foundations.**

Pope Benedict XVI, Address at Meeting on Family and Life Issues in Latin America, Dec. 3, 2005

**[...se facilita] la eliminación del embrión o su uso arbitrario en aras del progreso de la ciencia que, al no reconocer sus propios límites y no aceptar todos los principios morales que permiten salvaguardar la dignidad de la persona, se convierte en una amenaza para el ser humano mismo, quedando reducido a un objeto o a un mero instrumento. Cuando se llega a estos niveles se resiente la misma sociedad y se estremecen sus fundamentos con toda clase de riesgos.**

Papa Benedicto XVI, discurso a los presidentes de las comisiones episcopales para la familia y la vida de América Latina, 3 de diciembre de 2005

**Above all, the common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights-for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture- is false and illusory if *the right to life*, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination.**

Pope John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation *Christifideles Laici* #38, Dec. 30, 1988