

# Stewardship Bulletin Inserts for April / May 2010

April 4, 2010 (Easter Sunday)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In today's second reading, 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 18, 2010 (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

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

May 2, 2010 (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 16, 2010 (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 30, 2010 (Most Holy Trinity)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Today's Psalm reminds us that we have been crowned with glory and honor and given rule over the works of God's hands. But we must be good stewards, for the Lord will surely hold us accountable for the use of those gifts!

April 11, 2010 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter - Divine Mercy Sunday)  
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. Then, in our time too, "men and women in great numbers" will be "added to the Lord."

April 25, 2010 (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 service to God. But, the Gospel assures us, the reward for those who follow faithfully is eternal life.

May 9, 2010 (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 present life through the human goods, the worthy human purposes, which people foster now."

May 23, 2010 (Pentecost: Day)  
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.

# 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 coordinate 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 refillable 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 to Catholic Charities via U. S. Mail, fax or email on or before April 9, 2010.***

Attn: Shellie Sabel  
Catholic Charities  
144 West Wood Street

Catholic Charities fax: 330-742-6447  
Email: [slsabel@att.net](mailto:slsabel@att.net)

## **Vocation Bulletin Blurbs**

**April 2010/Cycle C**

### **Easter Sunday -- April 4, 2010**

“The Lord is truly risen!” Are you being called to proclaim the truth of the Lord’s resurrection as a priest, deacon, religious sister or brother? Call Fr. Chris Luoni (330) 744-8451, or email: cluoni@youngstowndiocese.org..

### **Second Sunday of Easter -- April 11, 2010**

“As the Father has sent Me, so I send you.” Do you have a growing interest in sharing the Lord’s saving mission as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Call Fr. Chris Luoni (330) 744-8451, or email: cluoni@youngstowndiocese.org..

### **Third Sunday of Easter -- April 18, 2010**

“Feed My lambs, tend My sheep.” If you think you may have a vocation to follow the Risen Lord as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life, call Fr. Chris Luoni (330) 744-8451, or email: cluoni@youngstowndiocese.org..

### **Fourth Sunday of Easter -- April 25, 2010 - World Day of Prayer for Vocations**

“The disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.” Does a life of joy in knowing you are following the Lord as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life inspire you? Call Fr. Chris Luoni (330) 744-8451, or email: cluoni@youngstowndiocese.org..

## **Vocation General Intercessions**

**March 2010/Cycle C**

### **Easter Sunday – April 4, 2010**

That the Risen Lord, made known to us through apostolic witness, will grace many more men and women to answer the call to proclaim His life, death and resurrection as priests, deacons, sisters and brothers, we pray to the Lord.

### **Second Sunday of Easter -- April 11, 2010**

That the gift of Christ’s peace will remain with all priests, deacons and those in the consecrated life who, sent in His name, proclaim the victory over the world through faith in Him, we pray to the Lord.

### **Third Sunday of Easter -- April 18, 2010**

For prayerful openness in our young people, that they will see their vocation discernment as a call to love the Lord and respond generously to His choice of them, we pray to the Lord.

### **Fourth Sunday of Easter -- April 25, 2010 - World Day of Prayer for Vocations**

For grace of confidence in prayer for all those discerning their vocation as priests, deacons, sisters and brothers, that they will be faithful to the voice of the Good Shepherd, we pray to the Lord.

# **TASTE OF THE FAITHS FESTIVAL**

**Sponsored by: MAHONING VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES**

**MONDAY, April 26, 2010**

**5:30 p.m.**

**St. Charles Church**

**Social Hall**

**7345 Westview Dr.**

**Boardman, OH**

**FOOD & BEVERAGES**

**PROVIDED BY CONGREGATIONS**

**OF THE MAHONING VALLEY**

**SILENT & PICK-A-PRIZE AUCTIONS**

**ENTERTAINMENT 6:30 p.m.**

**COST: \$15.00 per person**

**In advance or at the door – cash or check**

**A GREAT TIME TO MEET AND SOCIALIZE**

**WITH**

**YOUR NEIGHBORS OF OTHER FAITHS**

**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**Call Monica @ 330-799-5318, Mon-Fri before 1:00pm for information**

*U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities***April 4<sup>th</sup>                      EASTER SUNDAY**

The human goal is not wellbeing but God himself, and ... human life must be defended at every stage. Indeed, no one is master of his own life. Rather we are all called to treasure life and to respect it from the moment of conception to its natural end. ... I express my appreciation of those who work more directly at the service of children, the sick and the elderly. ...

~ Pope Benedict XVI, remarks after Angelus message (February 7, 2010)

**April 11<sup>th</sup>                      SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER  
(DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)**

The Church offers the world a positive and inspiring vision of human life, the beauty of marriage and the joy of parenthood. It is rooted in God's infinite, transforming and ennobling love for all of us, which opens our eyes to recognize and love his image in our neighbor. ... Be sure to present this teaching in such a way that it is recognized for the message of hope that it is. All too often the Church's doctrine is perceived as a series of prohibitions and retrograde positions, whereas the reality, as we know, is that it is creative and life-giving, and it is directed towards the fullest possible realization of the great potential for good and for happiness that God has implanted within every one of us.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Ad Limina Address to the Bishops of Scotland (February 5, 2010)

**April 18<sup>th</sup>                      THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

The bishops of the United States remain committed to health care reform that will help everyone to be cared for and assure that no one will be deliberately killed. ...

A health care reform bill without adequate protection of personal conscience would be an earthquake in our legal and political life. The laws of the United States have protected conscientious objectors in many areas of life. To remove that protection in health care now would bring us closer to despotism. It seems strange that some legislators who most protest against the church's "imposing" her ideas on others are the very ones who are willing to impose their own private morality on everyone else.

~ Cardinal Francis George, "Cardinal's Column," *Catholic New World* (January 31, 2010)

**April 25<sup>th</sup>                      FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

A single human soul is of more worth than the whole universe of bodies and material goods. There is nothing above the human soul except God. In the light of the eternal value and absolute dignity of the soul, society exists for each person and is subordinate thereto.

~ Jacques Maritain, *The Rights of Man and Natural Law* (1943)

**Office of Pro-Life, Marriage and Family Ministry  
Diocese of Youngstown**

*Natural Family Planning Bulletin Quotes – April 2010*

*Published monthly on [www.cathdoy.org](http://www.cathdoy.org). Click on the “Communique” tab.*

**April 4<sup>th</sup>                    EASTER SUNDAY**

Natural Family Planning is the safe, healthy, effective and morally acceptable way to postpone or achieve pregnancy. To learn more or to register for an upcoming course, visit [www.ccli.org](http://www.ccli.org) or [www.clevelandcatholiccharities.org/mfm/NFP.htm](http://www.clevelandcatholiccharities.org/mfm/NFP.htm)

**April 11<sup>th</sup>                SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER  
(DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)**

We cannot solve all the problems in the world, but let us never bring in the worst problem of all, and that is to destroy love. And this is what happens when we tell people to practice contraception and abortion.

- Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, U.S. National Prayer Breakfast, February 3, 1994

**April 18<sup>th</sup>                THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Natural family planning is a general name for the methods of family planning that are based on a woman’s menstrual cycle. A man is fertile throughout his life, while a woman is fertile for only a few days each cycle during the child-bearing years. Some believe that NFP involves using a calendar to predict the fertile time. To learn more or to register for an upcoming course, visit [www.ccli.org](http://www.ccli.org) or [www.clevelandcatholiccharities.org/mfm/NFP.htm](http://www.clevelandcatholiccharities.org/mfm/NFP.htm)

**April 25<sup>th</sup>                FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

When I pick up a person from the street, hungry, I give him a plate of rice, a piece of bread. But a person who is shut out, who feels unwanted, unloved, terrified, the person who has been thrown out of society – that spiritual poverty is much harder to overcome. And abortion, which often follows from contraception, brings a people to be spiritually poor, and that is the worst poverty and the most difficult to overcome.

- Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, U.S. National Prayer Breakfast, February 3, 1994

# Intercessions for Life

April 2010

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## **April 4<sup>th</sup>      EASTER SUNDAY**

For all who have been received into the Church this Easter:  
May their lives bear witness  
To the great dignity and value of every human life;  
We pray to the Lord:

## **April 11<sup>th</sup>      SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)**

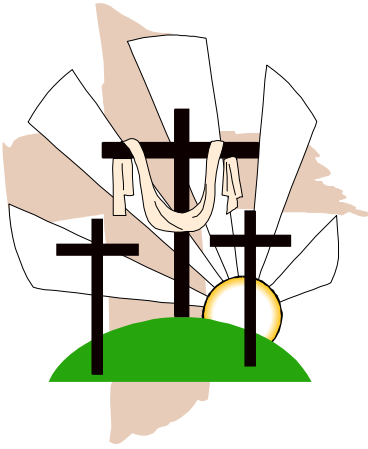
For all who despair of God's forgiveness,  
Especially those who have been involved in an abortion:  
May they trust in God's mercy  
And find peace again through the Sacrament of Reconciliation;  
We pray to the Lord:

## **April 18<sup>th</sup>      THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

For the people of Haiti:  
That Catholics will not forget  
Jesus' admonition to Peter –  
"Feed my lambs" and "Tend my sheep";  
We pray to the Lord:

## **April 25<sup>th</sup>      FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

For all those responsible for the medical care of elderly relatives:  
That they may be guided in all their medical decisions  
By the voice of the Eternal Shepherd;  
We pray to the Lord:



# Easter Scripture Reflection

## Year C 2010

### PRAYER

*Begin your reflection with an invocation to the Holy Spirit and with other opening prayers, hymns, and canticles appropriate for the season.*

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.  
Enkindle in them the fire of your love.  
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.  
And you will renew the face of the earth.  
O Lord who by the light of the Holy Spirit  
Did instruct the hearts of your faithful.  
Grant that by that same Spirit,  
We may be truly wise  
And ever enjoy your consolation.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### SCRIPTURE READING

*Proclaim the Gospel passage.*

◇ Easter Sunday	Jn 20: 1-9
◇ 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter	Jn 20: 19-31
◇ 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	Jn 21: 1-19
◇ 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Jn 10: 27-30
◇ 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Jn 13: 31-33a, 34-35
◇ 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Jn 14: 23-29
◇ Ascension of the Lord	Lk 24: 46-53
◇ Pentecost Sunday	Jn 14: 15-16, 23b-26
◇ Trinity Sunday	Jn 16: 12-15
◇ Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ	Lk 9: 11b-17

*Each person is invited to silently reflect upon the scriptural text*

*Someone may be inspired to reread the passage for the group.*





## MEDITATION

*In prayer, meditate on the selected passage using the following questions:*

- † *Examine the context of the passage: Who is in the text? Where? When? What is happening?*
- † *What phrase, words, images, or ideas stay with me as I reflect on this passage?*
- † *What thoughts, ideas, or images in this passage make me feel uncomfortable? Why? (The conversion question: "Conversion starts at the edge of our awareness and acceptance and that change usually makes us uneasy" [McKenna 225].)*
- † *What can I do to make this gospel passage come true in my life? In my community? (Start simply, be specific, share insights, and act. [225].)*
- † *What in this passage gives me hope and joy? Why?*

*These questions may be used for personal meditation and/or for small group reflection.*

## CONTEMPLATION and DIALOGUE

*In prayerful contemplation, continue to reflect on the scriptural passage and questions. Open your heart to the powerful presence of God.*

*Within a small group, this personal and private contemplation moves to communal reflection and dialogue.*

## ACTION

*Prayerful reflection on the Word of God moves us to personal and communal conversion and discernment for action. The "hope" empowers us to bring this discernment to life.*

## CLOSING PRAYER

*Prayer completes the movement of the scriptural reflection. This prayer may be formal or spontaneous and may include petitions and prayers of thanksgiving.*

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 Chordas, Carlette and Thomas D. Sauline. "Lectio Divina ..for Small Christian Communities?" Today's Parish 32.7 (2000): 25-27.  
 Frohlich, Mary. Praying with the Scriptures. Cleveland: Center for Learning, 1993.  
 McKenna, Megan. Not Counting Women and Children. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1994.  
 Morello, Sam Anthony. Lectio Divina and the Practice of Teresian Prayer. Institute of Carmelite Studies, 1995.  
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## Sharing Hope In Tough Times

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### Reflections & Prayer Intention Suggestions for Your Bulletin: April 2010

April 4, 2010:

Reflection: "He is risen!" we declare in our compassion toward those in need. In our giving is hope of the risen Lord.

Intention: That the Risen Lord fill those still seeking employment with the hope to press on and continue their job search.

April 11, 2010:

Reflection: Blessed are they who show mercy by spending an afternoon with a friend isolated by an extended period of unemployment.

Intention: That Christians everywhere understand the true meaning of mercy.

April 18, 2010:

Reflection: Jesus said to Peter, "Feed my sheep." A bag of canned goods for your parish food drive will feed many of His sheep.

Intention: For food banks, homeless shelters and all charitable organizations who endlessly work for those in need.

April 25, 2010:

Reflection: Spring returns with renewed hope, and yard work—which could mean gas money for your neighbor working part-time, if you hire him to help you.

Intention: For those working part-time, and those juggling more than one part-time job.

Alternate/Extra #1:

Reflection: Help the elderly couple across the street clean up their yard after the spring thaw.

Intention: That Christians everywhere find new ways to lighten the burdens of their neighbors in need.

Alternate/Extra #2:

Reflection: Christ amazed everyone by doing the unexpected. What unexpected act of kindness can you do to amaze someone in need?

Intention: That believers are always inspired by Christ's love to find ways to give of themselves.