

## Stewardship Bulletin Inserts for August / September 2009

August 2, 2009 (18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The crowd in today's Gospel demanded a sign of Jesus and wanted to know what "work" He did to inspire their faith. May our faithful stewardship be a sign to others that we, like the Ephesians in today's second reading, have laid aside our former way of life and acquired a "fresh, spiritual way of thinking" in Christ.

August 16, 2009 (20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In today's second reading, St. Paul reminds us that, thus blessed by the Lord, the good steward should be "giving thanks always and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father."

September 6, 2009 (23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The good steward must not show favoritism. The rich may have many material gifts to share, but St. James reminds us in today's second reading that God has chosen the world's poor to be rich in faith and inheritors of God's kingdom.

September 20, 2009 (25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Today's second reading warns that a heart consumed with jealousy and selfish ambition, leads to disorder and every foul practice. In contrast, a giving heart can sing again with the psalmist, "Freely will I offer you sacrifice; I will praise your name, O Lord, for its goodness."

August 9, 2009 (19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The gifts of God that the angel brought to Elijah - food, water, rest, and encouragement - were given, not for his own good alone, but to strengthen him for service. How am I using my gifts to serve others?

August 23, 2009 (21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In today's first reading, Joshua challenges the people to decide whom they will serve. Recalling God's faithfulness to them and to their ancestors, the people declare, "Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God." May we also be mindful of God's gifts to us and renew our commitment to serve Him with grateful hearts.

September 13, 2009 (24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In the second reading today, St. James has harsh words for those who do not put their faith into action. May we be such good stewards of God's gifts to us that we can never be accused of having "faith without demonstrated good works."

September 27, 2009 (26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

St. James warns in today's second reading that those who hoard their wealth and live only for themselves will be condemned. But in the Gospel, Jesus assures us that all who give of themselves for His sake will be rewarded.

# Diocesan Stewardship Day

*Presented by the Diocese of Youngstown Stewardship Commission*

**Featuring:**



**Bishop George Murry, S.J.**  
*will present his perspective on stewardship and encourage us to be good stewards in challenging times.*

**Plus:** *An Introduction to the Toolkit for Building Parish Communities*

*Tuesday, September 29, 2009 at two locations*

*Blessed Sacrament Parish  
3020 Reeves Road  
Warren, OH 44483  
330-372-2215*

*12:00 Noon Registration & Lunch  
12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Presentation*

*St. Louis Parish  
300 N. Chapel Street  
Louisville, OH 44641  
330-875-1658*

*6:00 p.m. Registration & Supper  
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Presentation*

**PRE-REGISTRATION ONLY...** Includes lunch at Blessed Sacrament or a supper at St. Louis.  
Individual Fee: \$15.00 --- Three or more from a parish: \$10.00 per person.  
Religious Education Certification Hours: two

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:** Friday, September 25, 2009 (Please duplicate if necessary)

Name(s):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (Day): \_\_\_\_\_

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish City: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check:

\_\_\_\_\_ Blessed Sacrament (Day Session & Lunch) \_\_\_\_\_ St. Louis (Evening Session & Supper)

\_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed

Parish Ministers who have paid their annual fee please check here.

Please mail completed registration form along with check made payable to Diocese of Youngstown and mail to: Diocese of Youngstown, Attn. Pat Palombo, 144 W. Wood Street, Youngstown, OH 44503

**August 2nd      18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

[Abortion is] a defining issue not only personally but socially. Poverty can be addressed incrementally, but the death of a child is quite final.

~ Cardinal Francis George

**August 9<sup>th</sup>      19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

At every Mass, we should offer special prayers for our nation and her leaders, in order that the culture of death may be overcome and a civilization of love may be steadfastly advanced. All Catholics throughout the nation should take part in Eucharistic adoration and in the praying of the Rosary for the restoration of the respect for human life and for the safeguarding of the integrity of the family. In our prayers, we should seek, above all, the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, under her title of the Immaculate Conception.

~Archbishop Raymond L. Burke

**August 16<sup>th</sup>      20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

One thing is certain: When the time has come, nothing which is man-made will subsist. One day, all human accomplishments will be reduced to a pile of ashes. But every single child to whom a woman has given birth will live forever, for he has been given an immortal soul made to God's image and likeness.

~ Alice von Hildebrand

**August 23<sup>rd</sup>      21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

The twentieth century often tried to do without that cornerstone, and attempted to build the city of man without reference to Him. It ended by actually building that city *against* man! Christians know that it is not possible to reject or ignore God without *demeaning man*. Allow me, dear young people, to consign this hope of mine to you: *you must be those "builders"*! You are the men and women of tomorrow. The future is in your hearts and in your hands. God is entrusting to you the task, at once difficult and uplifting, of working with him in the building of the *civilization of love*.

~Pope John Paul II

**August 30<sup>th</sup>      22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Christians are indistinguishable from other men either by nationality, language or customs....

And yet there is something extraordinary about their lives. They live in their own countries as though they were only passing through. ... Like others, they marry and have children, but they do not expose them [to die]. They share their meals, but not their wives.

They live in the flesh, but they are not governed by the desires of the flesh. They pass their days upon earth, but they are citizens of heaven. Obedient to the laws, they yet live on a level that transcends the law. Christians love all men, but all men persecute them. ... They live in poverty, but enrich many; they are totally destitute, but possess an abundance of everything. They suffer dishonor, but that is their glory. They are defamed, but vindicated. A blessing is their answer to abuse, deference their response to insult. For the good they do they receive the punishment of malefactors, but even then they, rejoice, as though receiving the gift of life.

~Letter to Diognetus #5 (2<sup>nd</sup> century)

**Office of Pro-Life, Marriage and Family Ministry**  
**Diocese of Youngstown**  
*Natural Family Planning Bulletin Quotes – August 2009*

**August 2nd                    18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

The Encyclical *Humanae Vitae* emphasizes both the unitive and the procreative meaning of sexuality, thereby locating at the foundation of society the married couple, man and woman, who accept one another mutually, in distinction and in complementarity: a couple, therefore, that is open to life. This is not a question of purely individual morality: *Humanae Vitae* indicates the *strong links between life ethics and social ethics*, ushering in a new area of magisterial teaching that has gradually been articulated in a series of documents, most recently John Paul II's Encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*.

*-Pope Benedict XVI, Encyclical Letter Caritas in Veritate, #15*

**August 9<sup>th</sup>                    19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Faced with the church's long-held ban on artificial birth control, many Catholic couples fail to realize that the Church has not abandoned them in dealing with this compelling issue of marital fertility. The Wisdom of the Holy Spirit has guided the teaching Magisterium of the Church to offer a natural, dignified way of spacing or postponing births, when needed, which is called "Natural Family Planning."

*-Wendy Cukierski*

**August 16<sup>th</sup>                    20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

I for one am extremely grateful for the grace and knowledge that have flowed into my marriage as a result of practicing NFP. I think it has hastened our growth into a more God-centered marriage. I would like to tell you that we started out as a prayerful, God-centered couple, but that would not be entirely true. We have had to grow into it, with the love and grace of God, and this beautiful gift of understanding our fertility through the practice of NFP.

*-Carrie Handy*

**August 23<sup>rd</sup>                    21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

The practical and logistical aspects of NFP are not terribly burdensome. Learning is not expensive, takes no more than a handful of hours spread over a couple of months and can be accomplished without ever leaving your house. Charting requires less than a minute a day and is simple enough to have been mastered by women all over the world, including many who are illiterate. And when a couple finds themselves confused or unsure about how to interpret the woman's chart, assistance from a trained teacher is only a phone call or email away.

*-Sara Fox Peterson*

**August 30<sup>th</sup>                    22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Couples who are health-conscious or concerned about environmental issues are very pleased to find an all-natural method of family planning. For couples who are concerned about maintaining their health, it would be inconsistent to pollute the wife's body with powerful chemicals, or to surgically destroy a healthy part of one's body. For couples concerned about the well-being of plants and wildlife, it would likewise be inconsistent to not be concerned about the well-being of any newly conceived baby in the wife's womb. With hormonal birth control, the potential exists to cause an early abortion since the chemicals can alter the lining of the woman's uterus and interfere with the implantation of newly conceived life.

*-Couple to Couple League Website, ccli.org*