

Stewardship Bulletin Inserts for August / September 2010

August 1, 2010 (18th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In today's Gospel, Jesus is very clear about the folly of thinking that we can ensure our own security with material possessions. The good steward knows that real treasure lies in our faith and trust in God and our demonstrated love for Him and other people.

August 15, 2010 (Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

"After Jesus, it is the Blessed Virgin Mary who by her example most perfectly teaches the meaning of discipleship and stewardship...she was called and gifted by God; she responded generously, creatively and prudently; she understood her divinely assigned role as 'handmaid' in terms of service and fidelity." (U.S. Bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship)

August 29, 2010 (22nd 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 needy. That sort of giving mirrors the bountiful giving of God, and Jesus assures us it is blessed indeed!

September 5, 2010 (23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In today's Gospel, 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. Good stewards know that and strive to use their gifts accountably.

September 19, 2010 (25th 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?

August 8, 2010 (19th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Am I waiting for the "right" time to become a good steward? Do I plan to share my time and talents "later?" Today's Gospel warns those who are procrastinating about stewardship to be prepared – "You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

August 22, 2010 (21st Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Today's reading from Isaiah describes the Israelites bringing their offering to the Lord "in clean vessels." The gift of myself – my patient endurance and fidelity to the will of God – is as important as the monetary gift I offer.

September 12, 2010 (24th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

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

September 26, 2010 (26th 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?

Attn: Bulletin Editor and Parish Vocations Committees

Vocation Bulletin Blurbs

August 2010/Cycle C

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time -- August 1, 2010

“One's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” If simplicity of life and the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience especially attract you, discover that life as a priest, deacon, sister or brother. To find out more information, please call Fr. Chris Luoni (330) 744-8451, or email: cluoni@youngstowndiocese.org.

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time -- August 8, 2010

“Faith is the assurance of that which is hoped for.” If you believe in the Giver of the call, you can hope to be true to it. Will you follow Christ as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Please call Fr. Chris Luoni (330) 744-8451, or email: cluoni@youngstowndiocese.org.

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary -- August 15, 2010

“He has looked with favor on His lowly servant.” Might the Lord be favoring you with an invitation to serve Him as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? To find out more about God's invitation to you, please call Fr. Chris Luoni (330) 744-8451, or email: cluoni@youngstowndiocese.org.

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time -- August 22, 2010

“Make straight paths for your feet.” Will your path of holiness be as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? To explore in a deeper way your call to holiness, please call Fr. Chris Luoni (330) 744-8451, or email: cluoni@youngstowndiocese.org.

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time -- August 29, 2010

“An attentive ear is the desire of the wise.” Is your prayer attentive to the wisdom of Christ? Is He inviting you to follow Him as a priest, deacon, sister or brother? Please call Fr. Chris Luoni (330) 744-8451, or email: cluoni@youngstowndiocese.org.

Vocation General Intercessions

August 2010/Cycle C

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time -- August 1, 2010

For a deepening conviction that each of us hidden with Christ in God makes His merciful love manifest through every vocation faithfully lived in Christ, to the glory of God and the salvation of His people, we pray to the Lord.

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time -- August 8, 2010

That those who have been given so much in their vocations as priests, deacons and consecrated men and women will imitate the Lord's generosity as they live that gift, we pray to the Lord.

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary -- August 15, 2010

For all those who experience opposition in the discernment of their vocations, that they will be blessed with the grace of perseverance and encouragement, we pray to the Lord.

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time -- August 22, 2010

That all those striving to enter heaven through the narrow gate of celibacy for the sake of Christ's kingdom will find strength and peace in their freely chosen discipline, we pray to the Lord.

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time -- August 29, 2010

For a deeper sense of gratitude for the profoundly beautiful mystery celebrated at every Mass and for all our priests, who humbly make Christ present by the power of the Holy Spirit through the grace of ordination, we pray to the Lord.

August 1st EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

As Catholics, called to reflect the light of Jesus in places of great darkness, we must speak out and work tirelessly on behalf of our brothers and sisters in captivity. We must educate others on what we can do to eradicate the deplorable trade of women and children for profit. And we must pray for the rescue and restoration of victims, for the redemption of traffickers, and for the protection of all human life.

~ Diane Bayly, "Sex Trafficking: The New Slavery" USCCB *Respect Life Program*

August 8th NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Pope Benedict's first message to young people, he taught with great conviction that if "we let Christ into our lives, we lose nothing, absolutely nothing of what makes life free, beautiful and great. Only in this friendship is the great potential of human existence truly revealed."

~ Megan Breen & Samuel Vasquez, "The Promise of Pro-Life Youth," USCCB *Respect Life Program*

August 15th ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Mercy brings healing that is impossible on a merely human level. Divine Mercy can restore hope, because it flows from the heart of the Risen Christ who, once and for all, has vanquished the finality of death. The deep truth that faith teaches is that only in the context of mercy—God's Mercy and our own forgiveness and mercy—can we, as wounded human men and women, find healing and hope.

~ Bishop Robert Finn, "Divine Mercy and the Death Penalty," USCCB *Respect Life Program* (2010-2011)

August 22nd TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The true measure of humanity is essentially determined in relationship to suffering and to the sufferer... A society unable to accept its suffering members and incapable of helping to share their suffering and to bear it inwardly through 'com-compassion' is a cruel and inhuman society.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, *In Hope We Are Saved*, no. 38

August 29th TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

His death is the ultimate sign of his mercy and of his willingness to suffer with and for us. Neither we nor our children have done anything to deserve his unconditional love and compassion, but we who mourn can entrust ourselves to his mercy. His death gives us hope that there is meaning in suffering. His resurrection also teaches us that there is life after tragedy, even the death of a child by suicide.

~ Gladys Sweeney, Ph.D., "Losing a Child to Suicide: Trusting in God's Mercy," USCCB *Respect Life Program*

Intercessions for Life

August 2010

August 1st EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For mothers considering abortion:
That they will find the courage and support
To make an adoption plan for their child;
We pray to the Lord:

August 8th NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For the poor:
that through the generous love of their brothers and sisters in Christ,
their material and spiritual needs will be met;
We pray to the Lord:

August 15th ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

For the sick and dying and their loved ones:
that when they are tempted to lose hope,
the Blessed Mother will help restore their joy
in the promise of eternal life;
We pray to the Lord:

August 22nd TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all young parents and families, especially those struggling financially:
that they will have hope and faith in God's goodness
and be given the strength to persevere;
We pray to the Lord:

August 29th TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all who suffer from the evils of slavery, human trafficking,
and other abuses of human dignity:
that they will know justice and freedom in this life;
We pray to the Lord:

Office of Pro-Life, Marriage and Family Ministry
Diocese of Youngstown
Natural Family Planning Bulletin Quotes – August 2010

August 1st EIGHTEENTH 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 8th NINETEENTH 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 15th ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

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 22nd TWENTY-FIRST 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 29th TWENTY-SECOND 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

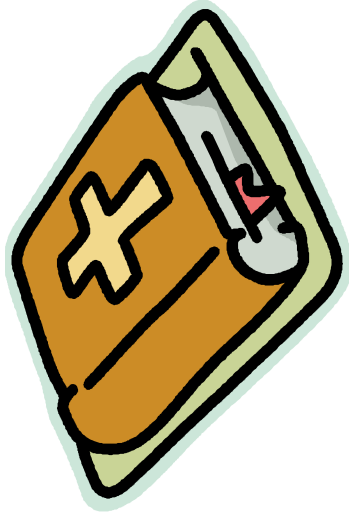


ACTION

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.



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.

Autumn

Ordinary Time

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.

○ 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.

MEDITATION

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

- ◆ **Examine the context of the select 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.

SCRIPTURE READING

❖ 22 nd Sunday	Aug 29	Luke 14:1, 7-14
❖ 23 rd Sunday	Sept 5	Luke 14:25-33
❖ 24 th Sunday	Sept 12	Luke 15:1-32
❖ 25 th Sunday	Sept 19	Luke 16:1-13
❖ 26 th Sunday	Sept 26	Luke 16:19-31
❖ 27 th Sunday	Oct 3	Luke 17:5-10
❖ 28 th Sunday	Oct 10	Luke 17:11-19
❖ 29 th Sunday	Oct 17	Luke 18:1-8
❖ 30 th Sunday	Oct 24	Luke 18:9-14
❖ 31 st Sunday	Oct 31	Luke 19:1-10
❖ All Saints	Nov 1	Matthew 5:1-12a
❖ 32 nd Sunday	Nov 7	Luke 20:27-38
❖ 33 rd Sunday	Nov 14	Luke 21:5-19
❖ Christ the King	Nov 21	Luke 23:35-43

Each person is invited to silently reflect upon the scriptural text. Someone may be inspired to reread the passage for the group.