

Suggested Stewardship Bulletin Inserts for August/September

August 5, 2007 (18th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the rich man who stored his bountiful harvest for himself. Jesus warns against storing up earthly treasures for ourselves. Instead, we should share our gifts and build up treasure in heaven. Good stewards try to live this Gospel teaching daily.

August 19, 2007 (20th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In today's second reading, St. Paul encourages us not to grow weary or lose heart, but to persevere in following Jesus. Our willingness to give of ourselves, even in the face of conflict and division, is one way to measure our discipleship.

September 2, 2007 (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 the needy. That sort of giving mirrors the bountiful giving of God, and Jesus assures us it is blessed indeed!

September 16, 2007 (24th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

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

September 30th, 2007 (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?

August 12, 2007 (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- "at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

August 26, 2007 (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 9, 2007 (23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

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.

September 23rd, 2007 (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?

USCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities
Respect Life Bulletin Briefs
August 2007

August 4-5

I strongly hope that the necessary scientific and technological progress will constantly go hand in hand with the awareness that together with the good of the sick person, one is promoting those fundamental values, such as the respect for and defense of life in all its stages, on which the authentically human quality of coexistence depends.

Pope Benedict XVI at San Matteo Hospital in Pavia, Italy (April 22, 2007)

August 11-12

[It] seems unexceptional to conclude that some women come to regret their choice to abort the infant life they once created and sustained. ... Severe depression and loss of esteem can follow.

Carhart v. Gonzales (upholding the federal partial-birth abortion ban), April 18, 2007

August 18-19

The Church says life is beautiful, it is not something to doubt, but it is a gift even when it is lived in difficult circumstances. It is always a gift.

Pope Benedict XVI, Conversation with the press, May 9, 2007

August 25-26

In a decision so fraught with emotional consequence some doctors may prefer not to disclose precise details of the means that will be used [to perform the abortion]. ... It is, however, precisely this lack of information concerning the way in which the fetus will be killed that is of legitimate concern to the State. ... The State has an interest in ensuring so grave a choice is well informed. It is self-evident that a mother who comes to regret her choice to abort must struggle with grief more anguished and sorrow more profound when she learns, only after the event, ... that she allowed a doctor [to take her child's life in a gruesome way].

Carhart v. Gonzales (upholding the federal partial-birth abortion ban), April 18, 2007

Office of Pro-Life, Marriage and Family
Diocese of Youngstown
NFP Bulletin Briefs
August 2007

August 4-5

Couples who adopt NFP to space the births of children find that it brings about many positive changes in their relationship and even becomes a way of life. It begins with acceptance, and even wonder, at the way the human body is made. As one woman noted, "Knowing and learning about what goes on inside of my unique body amazed me." Women especially find this information empowering. The woman gains a new respect for herself and often finds that her husband has a new supportive attitude: "My husband respects me as a person in my own right. He accepts my fertility as part of me."

Mary Shivanandan

August 11-12

Natural Family Planning (NFP) is an umbrella term for modern, healthy, scientifically accurate, and reliable methods of family planning which have been in use for only some 25 years. It differs from "Rhythm" (or the Calendar Method). Rhythm tried to estimate the time of ovulation by calculating previous menstrual cycles. Although this approach had sound scientific underpinnings, in practice it often proved inaccurate because of the unique nature of each woman's menstrual cycle. NFP, by contrast, has been proven scientifically sound in both theory and practice.

"Myths and Reality," U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

August 18-19

The natural methods do *not* depend on having regular menstrual cycles; they treat each woman and each cycle as unique. NFP works with menstrual cycles of any length and any degree of irregularity. It can be used during breastfeeding, just before menopause, and in other special circumstances. NFP allows a woman to understand the physical signals her body gives her to tell her when she is most likely to become pregnant.

"Myths and Reality," U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

August 25-26

Many couples say that an NFP lifestyle deepens their faith in God. "(NFP) involved us with the Truth We experienced ... *the* conversion point in our lives." "NFP is putting ourselves in God's hands, totally allowing Him to work spiritually in our lives."

Mary Shivanandan