

Stewardship Bulletin Inserts for February / March 2010

February 7, 2010 (5th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In today's readings, both Isaiah and Peter hear the call of God and feel themselves unworthy. But, reassured by the Lord, both answer and follow. Do *I* hear the Lord asking, "Whom shall I send?" Am *I* prepared to answer "Here I am. Send *me!*"?

February 21, 2010 (1st Sunday of Lent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Today's first reading describes the offering of first fruits the people of Israel were to present to the Lord in thanksgiving for their deliverance from Egypt and the gift of the promised land. Is my offering at Today's Mass an appropriate response to the many blessings the Lord has given me?

March 7, 2010 (3rd Sunday of Lent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The parable in today's Gospel clearly warns that we, like the fig tree, will be judged by our fruit. While God mercifully provides us with time and opportunity, let us give witness to our faith with deeds of kindness and generosity!

March 14, 2010 (4th Sunday of Lent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The stewardship message in the parable of the Prodigal Son is that it is never too late to become a good steward. Blessed is the elder brother who had been a good steward all along, but blessed, too, is the prodigal who had to lose all he had in order to understand the value of what he'd been given.

March 21, 2010 (5th Sunday of Lent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In today's second reading, St. Paul says, "For his sake I have forfeited everything; I have accounted all else rubbish so that Christ may be my wealth." Does my stewardship suggest that I could say the same?

March 28, 2010 (Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In the Gospel story of the first Palm Sunday we hear that the owners of the colt had only to be told, "the Master has need of it," to give the animal gladly. Do I give as readily to the Lord's work?

February 14th, 2010 (6th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The words of the Psalmist echo the theme of all of today's readings. "Happy are they who hope in the Lord." As good stewards, firmly grounded in that hope, may *we* bear fruit in due season – assisting the poor, feeding the hungry, and consoling the sorrowful whenever we have the chance.

February 28, 2010 (2nd Sunday of Lent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Peter, James and John wanted to build a "booth" for Jesus and just stay on the mountain where His transfiguration took place. But the Son of God, the Chosen One, knew that He must instead keep moving toward His Crucifixion. We, too, must rise from worship and do what we can to hasten the coming of the Kingdom.

March 7, 2010 (3rd Sunday of Lent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT (Cycle A Readings)

When Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a drink of water, He opened the door for a life-changing relationship with Him. Scripture says her testimony drew many others to Him as well. We, too, must be ready to respond whenever and wherever the Lord speaks to us and be prepared for it to change our lives!

March 14, 2010 (4th Sunday of Lent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT (Cycle A Readings)

The blind man in today's Gospel was willing to let Jesus minister to him and willingly did all Jesus asked of him. The Pharisees were more resistant to His message, spending their time and energy to disprove the miracle. Which am I more like, the man born blind or the Pharisees.

March 21, 2010 (5th Sunday of Lent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT (Cycle A Readings)

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.

Attn: Bulletin Editor and Parish Vocations Committee

Vocation Bulletin Blurbs

February 2010/Cycle C

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time -- February 7, 2010 - World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life

“They left everything and followed Jesus.” If you are seeking greater simplicity of life and a closer following of the Lord in prayer and action, consider that He may be calling you to the priesthood, diaconate or consecrated life. Call Fr. Chris Luoni (330) 744-8451, or email: cluoni@youngstowndiocese.org.

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time -- February 14, 2010

“Blessed are those who trust in the Lord.” Are you being called to deepen your trust in the love of the Lord for you by serving Him as a priest, deacon, sister or brother? Call Fr. Chris Luoni (330) 744-8451, or email: cluoni@youngstowndiocese.org.

First Sunday of Lent -- February 21, 2010

“The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart.” Jesus the Eternal Word continues to call many to lives of holiness as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life. Could you be one of them? Call Fr. Chris Luoni (330) 744-8451, or email: cluoni@youngstowndiocese.org.

Second Sunday of Lent -- February 28, 2010

“This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” If in your listening to the Lord you are sensing the invitation to follow Christ as a priest, deacon, sister or brother, call Fr. Chris Luoni (330) 744-8451, or email: cluoni@youngstowndiocese.org.

Vocation General Intercessions

February 2010/Cycle C

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time -- February 7, 2010 - World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life

That all those called to follow Jesus in the priesthood or consecrated life will allow the Holy Spirit to strengthen them each day in their vocation and mission, we pray to the Lord.

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time -- February 14, 2010

For an increase in prayerful trust among our young people, that they may faithfully respond to their unique vocation in Christ, we pray to the Lord.

First Sunday of Lent -- February 21, 2010

For all men and women being chosen by Christ to follow Him as priests, deacons, sisters and brothers, that they will persevere in the face of temptations against faithfulness to their call, we pray to the Lord.

Second Sunday of Lent -- February 28, 2010

That all our priests, who bring us to the mountain of Christ at every Mass and feed us with His transforming love in the sacraments will be strengthened in their life and mission, we pray to the Lord.

Intercessions for Life February 2010

February 7th FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For persons coping with mental illness:

That they will have access to excellent healthcare and counseling,

And be treated by all with the respect due every human being;

We pray to the Lord:

February 14th SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For members of our armed forces serving overseas and their families:

That God will keep them safe

And console them in the loneliness of separation from loved ones;

We pray to the Lord:

February 21st FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

For all who've helped a family member or friend obtain an abortion:

That the grace of repentance will lead them to Confession

And the great gift of Divine Mercy;

We pray to the Lord:

February 28th SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

For all Christians:

That we may learn to see each other as persons with whom

We will one day share God's joy in heaven;

We pray to the Lord:



Image courtesy of Our Lady of Lourdes, Gibson City, Illinois

February 7th**FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Human persons are not to be understood merely from the perspective of their past histories or from ... the present. ... We must always see in other human beings persons with whom we shall one day share God's joy. We must look upon them as persons who are called, together with us, to be members of the body of Christ, with whom we shall one day sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and with Christ himself, as their brothers and sisters, as the brothers and sisters of Christ, and as children of God.

Pope Benedict XVI, *"In the Beginning ...": A Catholic Understanding of the Story of Creation and the Fall*, p. 49.

February 14th**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Mary Immaculate helps us to rediscover and defend what lies within people. ... Our Lady teaches us to be open to God's action and to see others as he sees them: starting with the heart. And to look at them with compassion, with love, with infinite tenderness, especially those who are lonely, despised, or exploited.

Pope Benedict XVI, Address on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8, 2009)

February 21st**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

[In vitro fertilization] further depersonalizes the act of generating a child, turning it into a technical process in a laboratory. This procedure is so far from a loving act of the spouses that it can even be used to conceive a child if neither of them is alive, for the body of neither one is involved in the act of generating this life once sperm and egg are obtained and stored. Because these embryos are deliberately created not in the nurturing environment of the mother's body but in the poor substitute of a culture in a glass dish, the great majority of them die.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Life-Giving Love in an Age of Technology* (Nov. 2009)

February 28th**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

Often embryos not used in a first attempt at pregnancy are frozen and stored for future attempts. This also poses a serious risk to their lives. When their parents have as many live-born children as they want, or abandon their efforts to have a child through IVF, the remaining embryos are considered "excess" or "spare." Some are thrown away as laboratory waste, while others are abandoned indefinitely in a frozen state or slated for experimental purposes. The current debate about killing embryonic human beings on a large scale to "harvest" their embryonic stem cells arose partly because IVF clinics produced so many "spare" embryos, creating a terrible temptation for researchers to find a "use" for these human beings no longer wanted by their parents.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Life-Giving Love in an Age of Technology* (Nov. 2009)

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

Natural Family Planning Bulletin Quotes – February 2010

Published monthly on www.cathdoy.org. Click on the “Communique” tab.

February 7th FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“We went home and opened up the long instructions you get inside your pill packet, which we had never read. We finally realized the side effects it could cause, after I had been on the pill for years. Most importantly we realized that you could have a baby in the womb and have it aborted by using these chemicals.”

David and Michelle Marciniak, *Natural Family Planning Blessed Our Marriage*

February 14th SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Natural Family Planning strengthened our relationship and helped us grow stronger and closer in our faith. We just knew we were doing the right thing.”

Tom and Kathy Nuttle, *Natural Family Planning Blessed Our Marriage*

February 21st FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

“My husband and I love each other very much, and we’d never ask that either of us take unnecessary risks just to satisfy our own needs. Natural Family Planning has had a positive result for our marriage and our relationship with God”

Natural Family Planning Blessed Our Marriage

February 28th SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

One positive effect of Natural Family Planning is that men and women acknowledge their roles and responsibilities in the creation of new life. A second positive effect is a change in the way spouses view each other and their marital relationship.

Natural Family Planning Blessed Our Marriage

All Catholics in their Twenties & Thirties
Single, Engaged, & Married
are invited to the



Young Adult Mass & Social

Celebrating our faith & Mardi Gras!



Friday, February 12th, 2010
7:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

Mass @ 7 p.m. @ Saint John the Baptist
627 McKinley Ave. N.W., Canton, Ohio 44703



Followed by a Mardi Gras Social @
the Canton K of C Hall
601 Cleveland Ave. NW, 2nd floor, Canton, Ohio 44702



**Bring your spouse/date, friends, a sibling,
a roommate, or just come meet new friends!**

**For more information, please email:
Bonnie bbuzenski@littleflowerparish.com or
Cindee ccase@youngstowndiocese.org**

Or check the event info on the "DOY-YAM" Facebook group page.



Sponsored by the Stark County T.G.I.F., and the Diocese of Youngstown Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry. Special thanks to the staff & young adults of Stark County Parishes, Knights Council 341, & the TGIF planning team for hosting the event.

*** In the case of questionable weather, call 330-494-2759 to confirm event status! ***

Sharing Hope In Tough Times

Reflections & Prayer Intention Suggestions for Your Bulletin: February 2010

February 7, 2010:

Reflection: When our resources don't stretch as far as last year, we rely on the Lord and He fills our nets with everything we need.

Intention: That God may bring comfort to low income families who struggle with their day-to-day expenses.

February 14, 2010:

Reflection: Lent begins Wednesday. Blessed are you, giving the money you've saved on the fast food you've given up for Lent to a Meals on Wheels program.

Intention: For those who volunteer at food banks, soup kitchens and for meals on wheels programs.

February 21, 2010:

Reflection: Still need an idea for Lent? Donate your favorite personal care products (unopened) to the local help center, and use the off brands yourself.

Intention: That we all discover the great rewards in giving of ourselves during this Lenten season.

February 28, 2010:

Reflection: With every gift of sacrifice we offer to a person down on their luck, the light of Christ shines that much brighter within us.

Intention: That the growing numbers who are forced to rely on charity find within the loving people that care for them the love of Christ.

Alternate/Extra #1:

Reflection: It's nice to relax on a day off; but volunteering at the local food pantry or homeless shelter will bring your spirit far more refreshment.

Intention: For volunteers, that the Lord may continue to sustain them as they continually give of themselves.

Alternate/Extra #2:

Reflection: Less is more, especially in a downturned economy. When we eat out less, we enjoy our families more while preparing and cleaning up from our daily meals.

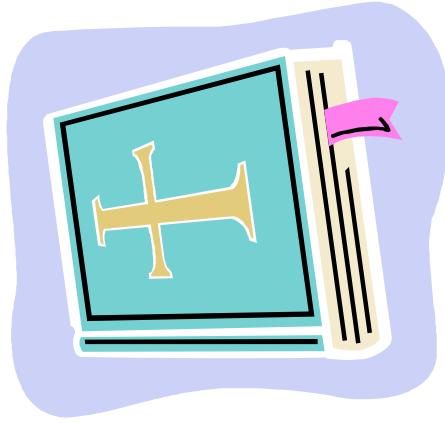
Intention: That families rediscover the joy of spending time together.

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.

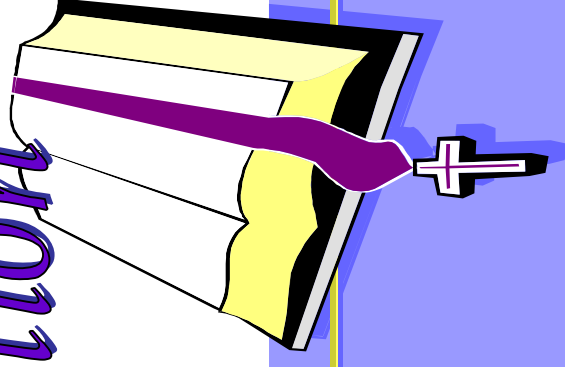
Lent

Scripture

Reflection

Year C

2010



PRAAYER

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.

- ✦ First Sunday of Lent Lk 4:1-13
- ✦ Second Sunday of Lent Lk 9:28b-36
- ✦ Third Sunday of Lent Lk 13:1-9
- ✦ Fourth Sunday of Lent Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
- ✦ Fifth Sunday of Lent Jn 8:1-11
- ✦ Palm Sunday Lk 22:14-23:56
- ✦ Holy Thursday Jn 13:1-15
- ✦ Good Friday Jn 18:1-19:42
- ✦ Easter Vigil Lk 24:1-12

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.

