

Suggested Stewardship Bulletin Inserts for January / February

January 7, 2007 (Epiphany)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The three kings in today's Gospel traveled a great distance at considerable cost to offer their richest gifts to the Infant Jesus. How far will I go and what will I offer to do homage to this newborn King and Savior?

January 21, 2007 (3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In today's second reading, St. Paul instructs the Corinthians that because the individual members do collectively make up the Body of Christ, that body's health and well-being are the responsibility of the members – the personal responsibility of each one of us. We are all stewards of the Church!

February 4, 2007 (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 18, 2007 (7th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Today's Gospel has encouraging words for good stewards – "Give and it shall be given to you. For the measure you measure will be measured back to you." What encouragement to give generously of the resources entrusted to our care!

January 14, 2007 (2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In today's second reading, St. Paul tells the Corinthians (and us) that all of our gifts are from God and that they are given, not for ourselves alone, but for the common good. But the generosity of God knows no limits – the miracle at Cana reminds us that whenever we faithfully do as God asks, He can change our gifts of water into wine!

January 28, 2007 (4th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Jeremiah declares that the Lord knew him before he was born and dedicated and appointed him to his role as prophet even before he drew breath. We, too, are known and sent by the Lord. What deeds of love and service are mine to perform?

February 11, 2007 (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 25, 2007 (1st Sunday in 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?

Respect Life Bulletin Briefs
USCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities

January 6-7

The soul is healed by being with children. *Fyodor Dostoevsky*

January 13-14

When I have explained the extreme permissiveness of American abortion law to people, one of the most common reactions is: “That can’t be right.” I’ve found that most people – including many law professors – have a great deal of difficulty wrapping their minds around the idea that the Court would permit the intentional destruction of a healthy infant who was capable of living outside his or her mother’s body, when the mother’s health (in the ordinary meaning of that word) is not in serious danger.

Harvard Law School Professor Mary Ann Glendon, “The Women of Roe v. Wade,” First Things, June/July 2003

January 20-21

Dr.Boehm “insists there are no medical circumstances in which a partial-birth abortion is the only safe alternative. ‘We take care of [pregnant] women who are very sick, and babies who are very sick, and we never perform partial-birth abortions. ... There are plenty of alternatives. ... This is clearly a procedure no obstetrician needs to do’.”

The Washington Times, May 6, 1996, A1

January 27-28

As far as the Catholic Church is concerned, the principal focus of her interventions in the public arena is the protection and promotion of the dignity of the person, and she is thereby consciously drawing particular attention to principles which are not negotiable.

Among these the following emerge clearly today: protection of life in all its stages, from the first moment of conception until natural death; recognition and promotion of the natural structure of the family - as a union between a man and a woman based on marriage ...; the protection of the right of parents to educate their children.

These principles are not truths of faith, even though they receive further light and confirmation from faith; they are inscribed in human nature itself and therefore they are common to all humanity.

Pope Benedict XVI, Address to Members of the European People’s Party, March 30, 2006

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

January 6-7

A married couple can engage in marital intimacy during the naturally infertile times in a woman's cycle, or after child-bearing years, without violating the meaning of marital intercourse in any way. This is the principle behind natural family planning (NFP). Natural methods of family planning involve fertility education that enables couples to cooperate with the body as God designed it.

"Married Love and the Gift of Life" US Conference of Catholic Bishops, November 14, 2006

January 13-14

The Church's support for NFP is not based on its being "natural" as opposed to artificial. Rather, NFP respects the God-given power to love a new human life into being even when we are not actively seeking to exercise that power. However, because NFP does not change the human body in any way, or upset its balance with potentially harmful drugs or devices, people of other faiths or of no religious affiliation have also come to accept and use it from a desire to work in harmony with their bodies. They have also found that it leads couples to show greater attentiveness to and respect for each other.

"Married Love and the Gift of Life" US Conference of Catholic Bishops, November 14, 2006

January 20-21

Hormonal methods such as the Pill may work in several ways. They can suppress ovulation or alter cervical mucus to prevent fertilization, and thus act contraceptively. But they may at times have other effects, such as changes to the lining of the uterus. If the contraceptive action fails and fertilization takes place, these hormonal methods may make it impossible for a newly conceived life to implant and survive. That would be a very early abortion.

"Married Love and the Gift of Life" US Conference of Catholic Bishops, November 14, 2006

January 27-28

Living God's design for human sexuality in marriage can be difficult. But husbands and wives have not been left alone to live out this fundamental life challenge. If you have failed to do so in the past, do not be discouraged. God loves you and wants your ultimate happiness. Loving as Christ loves is a possibility opened to us by the power of the Holy Spirit, as a free gift of God. Through prayer and the sacraments, including Reconciliation and the Eucharist, God offers us the strength to live up to this challenge.

"Married Love and the Gift of Life" US Conference of Catholic Bishops, November 14, 2006