

Stewardship Bulletin Inserts for November / December 2009

November 1, 2009 (All Saints)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The saints are those men and women who exemplified the living out of Jesus' teaching in the Beatitudes. May we, as stewards of the Gospel, follow the examples set by the saints and daily demonstrate our faith in Jesus.

November 15, 2009 (33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The readings today speak of the end of the world and the coming of the Kingdom. The bishops' pastoral on stewardship says clearly "that 'life to come' is in continuity with this present life through the human goods, the worthy human purposes, which people foster now." May our good stewardship cause us to be numbered among the chosen on the last day!

November 29, 2009 (1st Sunday of Advent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

"Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life," warns Jesus in today's Gospel. Let us heed His warning and follow the advice of St. Paul, conducting ourselves in a way pleasing to God, overflowing with the love for one another.

December 6, 2009 (2nd Sunday in Advent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Good stewards believe that God, who has begun this good work in them, will carry it through to completion. In words and deeds, they can sing with the Psalmist, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy!"

December 20, 2009 (4th Sunday of Advent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The Gospel today tells of the Virgin Mary, pregnant herself, hurrying off to help her cousin Elizabeth. The model of good stewardship, she who had given of herself to bear the Savior gave her time and love to others as well.

November 8, 2009 (32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Both widows in today's readings gave all they had to the work of the Lord, one using her remaining food to feed Elijah and the other offering her two copper coins to the temple treasury. Faithful stewards give all that is asked and trust the Lord to be faithful to His promises.

November 22, 2009 (Christ the King)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Today's second reading reminds us that the sacrifice of Christ frees us from sin and makes us a royal nation of priests in the service of God. How am I using my gifts to serve God .

December 13, 2009 (3rd Sunday in Advent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Today's Gospel provides a blueprint for good stewardship: "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the man who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise."

December 27, 2009 (Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The first reading today provides a challenging guideline for the good stewardship of our family relationships. How do I measure up?

Is your parish, Catholic School or Catholic Agency remembered in wills, trusts or other estate planning vehicles on a regular basis? *No*

Can your parish, Catholic School or Catholic Agency invite Catholics to remember you in their estate plan? *Yes*



Through a Charitable Estate Planning Seminar!

The Diocesan Office of Development & Stewardship can conduct a Charitable Estate Planning Seminar for you ...

WHO: Mr. Michael Andersen, CPA
Atty. Leo Puhalla
Mr. Jeff Rossi, JDL, CLU
Mr. Pat Palombo, CFRE

WHAT: Topics covered include:

- The importance of an effective Estate Plan
- Avoiding taxes and settlement costs
- Pitfalls of Joint Tenancy
- Unlocking the mysteries of Trusts
- The Popularity of Charitable Gift Annuities
- Advantages of Charitable Giving
- Creative uses of Life Insurance
and more

WHERE: Your location

WHEN: **Call now** to schedule a seminar this fall

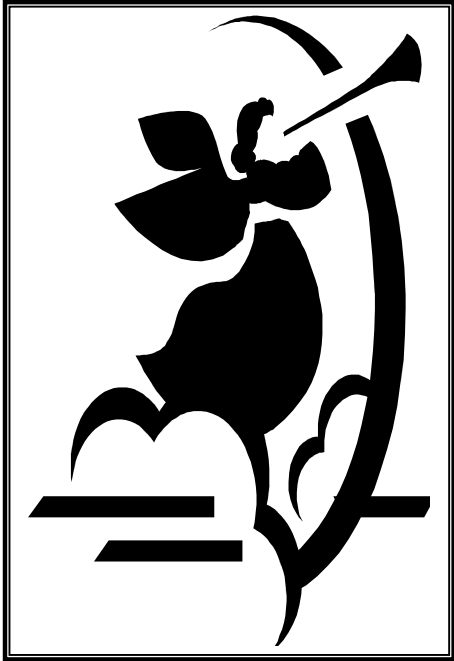
This ninety-minute Power Point Slide Show seminar is similar to those offered in your area by Commercial Financial Planners with one exception ...

no sales pitch and nothing is sold! It is an “information only” seminar and it’s FREE!

PICK UP THE PHONE!

Call Pat Palombo at (330) 744-8451 ext. 325 or email patpal@cboss.com and schedule a seminar NOW!

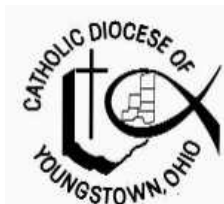




Advent 2009

*We wait together
for the Lord.*

Resources for
Discussion and Reflection



Lutheran-Catholic Covenant Commission

Northeastern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Catholic Diocese of Youngstown

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Jeremiah 33: 14-16

1 Thessalonians 3: 12-4: 2

Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36

Leader: Today we are reminded of our fragility. We hear about the second coming of Jesus. Why does this reading frighten us? For those of us who believe in Jesus and love him, Jesus comes as the fulfillment of our deepest dreams and longings. But at the same time this reading informs us that everything we are used to, everything we take for granted – the very ground we walk on – will cease to exist. It isn't just that our own personal lives will someday end, but that everything material that we have worked for will no longer exist. So with this Advent we are again asked to examine the theme of life with its beginnings and endings.

Leader: Now, take a few minutes in your group to silently reflect on these questions and share your thoughts with those around you.

1. What am I hoping to accomplish in the time I have left on earth?
2. What is it right now that seems to be giving meaning to my life?
3. How does what I hope to accomplish and what gives me meaning affect others?

Leader: Ultimate holiness is God. Imagine for a minute a “holiness” magnet with its two opposite poles. One pole pulls you toward ultimate holiness and the other towards a life absent of all meaning.

1. Where do you find yourself on this continuum?
2. What are some specific things that pull you in either direction, towards the Holy Spirit or the world?

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Baruch 5:1-9

Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Luke 3:1-6

Leader: John the Baptist preaches a baptism of repentance in a world where the rough way would need to be made smooth. Jesus was born into a world of light and darkness, a world of cultural delights and problems. We are born into the same world. Our attitudes and values begin at birth to be shaped by our environment. Our values, though sometimes very good, are still in some ways distorted. This is a result of original sin.

Imagine a time line with your birth date at the beginning left of the line. Imagine further that this is the early years of your life, up to age 10. Good things and bad happen to you.

1. Can you remember a few things/events that could have led you into the darkness of sin?
2. Can you remember some life-giving circumstances that allowed you to grow in holiness and wellness?
3. Discuss how your choices after age 10 have influenced your walk with God.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:10-18

Leader: The crowds came to John with a longing and expectancy and asked him what they needed to do for salvation. John answers with a basic morality that we've heard all our lives. He speaks of a morality of justice and charity. The person in a position of authority is to use power justly. People are never to abuse their power. And to the people in general, he says, "If you have two cloaks, give one to the poor. Share your food with the hungry." After hearing this, the crowd is still full of anticipation and asks if he is the Christ. John answers that he is not, that one greater than he is coming.

Leader: Imagine John the Baptist is talking today (like Dr. Phil) and giving you some "straight talk". "Here is what you need to do. Don't abuse power. If you have extra material goods beyond your needs give them to others. Trust in God to fulfill you."

1. If you heard these "straight talking" words, how would they call you to live life differently, live life more in line with the level of God's kingdom?

2. What things would you have to change in your life?

Leader: A good coach enables you to improve your game. A great coach enables you to improve your life. John the Baptist is a good coach. He tells his followers what to do; he gives them a deeper way to live the game of life. John then points the way to Jesus. Jesus is a great coach. He doesn't just want his followers to change a few things about their lives. As with his followers, he calls us to a whole new level of life. He wants our whole life – all of it. If we lose our life we will find it.

1. What would you have to do to give your whole life over to Jesus?

2. What keeps you from this life of radical trust?

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Micah 5:1-4

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45

Leader: The gospel tells us “that as soon as Elizabeth heard the voice of Mary at her door, the baby in her womb leapt for joy.” Ideally this is the effect the Incarnation should have on us all. God loves us! God likes us! God has chosen to become one of us! We need today, no matter where we are at on our faith journey, to leap for joy.

Jesus took flesh 2,000 years ago and lived with us and saved us. Jesus again takes on humanity in our baptisms. He says, “You are mine, I love you and I’m going to make my dwelling in you. From now on, you are a new creation. It is not only you acting or talking but also me acting and speaking in you. You are my eyes, my hands, my feet, my compassion to the world.” The hardest thing to believe about the Incarnation is that our God, Emmanuel, is still with us. We have to believe in His presence in the continued life of His Church and in us individually. We need to hear Him speaking through the Scripture, the words of our liturgies, our sacraments and our ordinary lives.

Leader:

1. Have I ever thought about my baptism as a way that Jesus’ presence is incarnate in the world today?
2. How do I see Jesus acting through my hands or my mouth to others who need Jesus?
3. Can I think of a time that Jesus has ministered to me through the actions of another person?

Leader: For this Advent and Christmas season make a commitment to spend time with Jesus the way we do with our friends, listen to His words and act in concrete ways to show Him our love.

November 1st All Saints

You matter. That's why Christ came into your life, cleaned your soul [at baptism], and lit the lamp of faith in your heart. If ever the lamp goes out, he is always there to light it again. And while it shines, it should inspire us to roll back the dark lies of the culture of death and spread the light of Christ's love to everyone we can, because they matter too."

Rev. John Bartunek, LC, "Why You Matter," *Respect Life Program* (2009-2010)

November 8th Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Abortion and euthanasia ... are the places where those committed to a *conditional* and *selective* vision of human rights have planted their flag in our time. They want to draw lines between the important and unimportant members of society, between persons and "nonpersons." In a different time or place the forcing issue might be slavery, racism or anti-Semitism – today abortion and related issues force us to decide whether we mean what we say in speaking of inalienable human rights, inherent in simply being human.

Cardinal Justin Rigali, "Where do we go from here?" *Respect Life Program* (2009-2010)

November 15th Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

The teaching of the Catholic Church on human sexuality is profound and uplifting. Married love is meant to mirror the love within the Trinity – to be faithful, selfless, permanent, and life-giving. And isn't that what everyone really wants out of marriage? But rather than encouraging this kind of love, contraceptives have helped many people to engage in sexual relationships that are unfaithful, selfish, short-term, and altered to be sterile, not life giving. Such uncommitted relationships can not only damage our ability to love as we're meant to love, but very often lead to other problems – contributing to the 3 million unintended pregnancies, over one million abortions, and 19 million new cases of sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs) in the United States each year.

Susan Wills, "Contraception: The Fine Print," *Respect Life Program* (2009-2010)

November 22nd Our Lord Jesus Christ the King

Every little boy and girl is a unique and irreplaceable creature designed by the God of love, his personal gift that comes to us bearing his image and likeness. While biological parents assist in God's creative act, God contributes the child's eternal soul—his or her intellect, consciousness, will, and the capacities to reason and love, to hope and aspire.

Flyer, *Respect Life Program* (2009-2010)

November 29th First Sunday of Advent

Between 4 and 5 weeks after conception, the child's brain develops at an incredible rate, and the stomach, esophagus, pancreas, intestines, kidneys, and even reproductive organs are all developing. Between 5 and 6 weeks the embryo begins to move spontaneously and reflexively—e.g., in response to touch the embryo will withdraw. By 6 weeks plus 2 days an embryo's brain waves have been recorded by EEG.

Flyer, *Respect Life Program* (2009-2010)

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

Natural Family Planning Bulletin Quotes – November 2009

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

November 1st All Saints

It's important to remember that the Fundamental task of marriage is to serve life. Children are always a blessing and never a burden. They are not a disease to be eradicated by taking a pill.

David Hajduk. “God’s Plan for You” Pauline Books and Media.

November 8th Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

The reason that NFP is an acceptable method of regulating births, when there is a legitimate reason for doing so, is that it is in no way contraceptive – it in no way acts against God’s plan for bringing life into the world. NFP is an effective and scientific method of regulating births or achieving pregnancy.

Michaleann and Curtis Martin. “Family Matters”. Emmaus Road Publishing

November 15th Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Advantages of NFP:

1) It is medically safe. 2) It is highly reliable. 3) It is morally acceptable. 4) It is easy to learn. 5) It is inexpensive. 6) It is highly versatile - it can be used at any stage of a woman's reproductive life. 7) It precisely identifies the true days of fertility and infertility. 8) It is a valuable aid for couples who are having difficulty in achieving pregnancy.

Kathy Schmutge, Diocese of Charleston Family Life Coordinator

November 22nd Our Lord Jesus Christ the King

What is natural family planning?

Natural family planning is a general name for the methods of family planning that are based on a woman’s menstrual cycle. A man is fertile throughout his life, while a woman is fertile for only a few days each cycle during the child-bearing years. Some believe that NFP involves using a calendar to predict the fertile time. That is not what NFP is today.

Married Love & The Gift of Life: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

November 29th First Sunday of Advent

In 1996, I became exposed to contemporary natural family planning when I attended a California conference for NFP professionals. I learned for the first time – after twenty years in OB/GYN – that NFP was not the Rhythm method, and that it worked 98-99% of the time!

Mary L. Davenport, MD

Intercessions for Life

NOVEMBER 2009

November 1st ALL SAINTS

For all those who are nearing death:
that through the gentle and loving care of their family and caregivers
they may never doubt their great dignity and worth;
We pray to the Lord:

November 8th THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all who serve in government:
that they will be open to the light of the Holy Spirit
and strive in all their actions to defend the lives of every human being,
especially the unborn, the elderly, and the poor;
We pray to the Lord:

November 15th THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For Catholic hospitals and healthcare providers:
That their rights of conscience to minister to the sick and dying,
in a manner in keeping with their Catholic mission, will not be violated;
We pray to the Lord:

November 22nd OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING

For all Catholics:
That we may be united in faith and spirit
In working to uphold the dignity of every human life
Under our one Lord Jesus Christ the King;
We pray to the Lord:

November 29th FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For all unborn children:
That their families will prepare to welcome them with joy
And awareness of the many gifts children bring into the world;
We pray to the Lord:

DIOCESAN MAILINGS AND COLLECTION DATES – 2010

	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Info sent to parishes</u>	<u>Parish promotion</u>	<u>Collection</u>
VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK January 10-16	Fr. Chris Luoni	December, 2009	January	(none)
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY January 18-25	Nancy Yuhasz	August, 2009	January 10	(none)
CATHOLIC EXPONENT CAMPAIGN	Lou Jacquet	January	February	(none)
THE CHURCH OVERSEAS	Brian Corbin	January 25	February 14	February 21
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catholic Relief Services Collection • Aid to Eastern Europe • Holy Father/Peter's Pence • Latin America 	Nancy Yuhasz Bro. T.A. Dolan Bro. T.A. Dolan			
RICE BOWL	Brian Corbin	January	February 17	April 1
HOLY LAND	Nancy Yuhasz	March 8	March 28	April 2
BISHOP'S APPEAL FOR CHURCH AND CHARITY	Pat Palombo	March	April 18	April 25 May 2 & May 9: Commitment & Follow-up
THE CHURCH AT HOME		May 10	May 30	June 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign for Human Development • Catholic Communications • Catholic University/Newman Apostolate 	Brian Corbin Nancy Yuhasz Nancy Yuhasz			
CATECHETICAL SUNDAY	Barbara Walko	June	September 19	(none)
CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA 100th ANNIVERSARY	Brian Corbin	August	September 26	(none)
RESPECT LIFE MONTH	Melinda Knight	September	October	(none)
MISSION SUNDAY	Bro. T.A. Dolan	September	October 10	October 17
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propagation of the Faith • Home Mission 				
RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS	Sr. Joyce Candidi	October	November 21	November 28