

Stewardship Bulletin Inserts for September / October 2009

September 6, 2009 (23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The good steward must not show favoritism. The rich may have many material gifts to share, but St. James reminds us in today's second reading that God has chosen the world's poor to be rich in faith and inheritors of God's kingdom.

September 20, 2009 (25th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Today's second reading warns that a heart consumed with jealousy and selfish ambition, leads to disorder and every foul practice. In contrast, a giving heart can sing again with the psalmist, "Freely will I offer you sacrifice; I will praise your name, O Lord, for its goodness."

October 4, 2009 (27th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The phrase in today's Psalm, "May you see your children's children," is really a prayer for a long life. The good steward knows that *every* day is a gift from God, to be lived with joy and thanksgiving. "May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives!"

October 18, 2009 (29th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Good stewards must not argue about who is the most important. Today's Gospel says clearly that those who aspire to greatness must humbly serve the needs of all. Even Jesus came not to be served, but to serve.

September 13, 2009 (24th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In the second reading today, St. James has harsh words for those who do not put their faith into action. May we be such good stewards of God's gifts to us that we can never be accused of having "faith without demonstrated good works."

September 27, 2008 (26th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

St. James warns in today's second reading that those who hoard their wealth and live only for themselves will be condemned. But in the Gospel, Jesus assures us that all who give of themselves for His sake will be rewarded.

October 11, 2009 (28th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks the rich young man to give away all that he has in order to have treasure in heaven. But he is unable to free himself from his possessions, and so he goes sadly away. Does what *I* own keep *me* from following Jesus?

October 27, 2009 (30th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Today's Psalm says, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy." Good stewards demonstrate by their living and giving that they understand God as the source of all they are and have.

Diocesan Stewardship Day

Presented by the Diocese of Youngstown Stewardship Commission

Featuring:



Bishop George Murry, S.J.
will present his perspective on stewardship and encourage us to be good stewards in challenging times.

Plus: *An Introduction to the Toolkit for Building Parish Communities*

Tuesday, September 29, 2009 at two locations

Blessed Sacrament Parish
3020 Reeves Road
Warren, OH 44483
330-372-2215

12:00 Noon Registration & Lunch
12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Presentation

St. Louis Parish
300 N. Chapel Street
Louisville, OH 44641
330-875-1658

6:00 p.m. Registration & Supper
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Presentation

PRE-REGISTRATION ONLY... Includes lunch at Blessed Sacrament or a supper at St. Louis.
Individual Fee: \$15.00 --- Three or more from a parish: \$10.00 per person.
Religious Education Certification Hours: two

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: **Friday, September 25, 2009** (Please duplicate if necessary)

Name(s):

Address:

_____ Zip: _____ Phone (Day): _____

Parish: _____ Parish City: _____

Please check:

_____ Blessed Sacrament (Day Session & Lunch) _____ St. Louis (Evening Session & Supper)

_____ Amount Enclosed

Parish Ministers who have paid their annual fee please check here.

Please mail completed registration form along with check made payable to Diocese of Youngstown and mail to: **Diocese of Youngstown, Attn. Pat Palombo, 144 W. Wood Street, Youngstown, OH 44503**

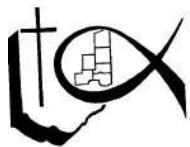
Word, Worship & Service

Connecting Parishes with the Diocesan Offices of Catholic Schools, Worship and Catholic Charities

Word, Worship & Service is a quarterly publication distributed through *Communiqué* and on the web at www.ccdoy.org. Its purpose is to provide information on how the Diocesan Offices of Education, Worship and Catholic Charities are serving you—our parishes, Catholic Institutions and friends in the Diocese of Youngstown.

“The Church’s deepest nature is expressed in her three-fold responsibility: of proclaiming the word of God, celebrating the sacraments, and exercising the ministry of charity. These duties presuppose each other and are inseparable.”

— Pope Benedict XVI
Deus Caritas Est



And Who is My Neighbor?

In Luke’s Gospel, we are reminded that love of God and love of neighbor are the keys to everlasting life. However, things get complicated when a lawyer asks Jesus to define “neighbor.” Jesus’ response leads us into the story of the Good Samaritan, a parable that can leave us feeling unsettled by its implications for us in the modern world.

It is often easy to love members of our family and the friends we have chosen throughout our lives. But what about those we do not know? Those who are strangers to us?

Hospitality and love of neighbor are key values for Catholic Charities. One of most common misconceptions about Catholic Charities across the United States is that a person has to be Catholic in order to receive services.

When a person comes to Catholic Charities for assistance, we do not ask her where she goes to Church or question her about religion. Rather, we recognize the human need presented to us, and respond with compassion and love; with help and hope.



Each day, Catholic Charities takes the story of the Good Samaritan seriously, as evidenced by *who* we serve. If as a Catholic organization we choose to serve only Catholic people who attend our parishes and contribute to our cause, we would have missed the lesson of the Good Samaritan story.

It is because we serve all of those in need regardless of faith that we are able to live out the “love your neighbor as yourself” mandate and make the story of the Good Samaritan real in today’s world.



Catacombs of Priscilla 2nd c.

What is a Commissioned Leader of Prayer?

Over the past sixteen years, more than three hundred lay men and women have been commissioned as leaders of prayer in the Diocese of Youngstown. A leader of prayer is a lay person commissioned to lead the faithful in acts of worship which in the past were often led by ordained clergy, but which are not reserved exclusively to them.

The formation for this ministry consists of an eight-week series conducted each fall by the diocesan Worship Office. Individuals are chosen for participation in this ministry by their pastors. The course addresses the verbal and non-verbal elements of presiding at prayer as well as the structure of the various forms of prayer.

Leaders of prayer may lead the Liturgy of the Hours, especially Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer, Liturgy of the Word with or without Communion, the Vigil Service and the Rite of Committal from the Order of Christian Funeral, devotions such as novenas and Stations of the Cross, minor rites within the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest when and only when in an emergency a priest cannot be present.

It is the hope that through this ministry, parishes will be able to more easily gather for prayer when a priest is not available and that the opportunities for communal prayer may eventually be expanded.

The many leaders of prayer in our diocese are to be commended for the dedication and enthusiasm with which they respond to the call by their parish to take part in this ministry. If you know of leaders of prayer in your parish, you might thank them for the service they are giving to your parish.

Administrative Appointments 2009-2010

The Office of Catholic Schools directs and coordinates the elementary and secondary education apostolate in the diocese according to policies of the Bishop, providing service and direction for Catholic education.

Superintendent Dr. Michael Skube announces the following administrative appointments for the 2009-2010 school year.

St. Joseph School, Randolph: Mrs. Dee Demyan
St. Peter School, Canton: Mrs. Rita Kingsbury
St. Patrick School, Hubbard: Mrs. Cindy Lacko
St. Nicholas School, Struthers: Mrs. Betty McCullough
SS. Mary & Joseph School, Newton Falls: Sr. Carole Suhar
St. Charles School, Boardman: Miss Mary Welsh



The Office of Catholic Schools is responsible for principals, teachers and students in 6 high schools and 36 elementary school buildings in the Diocese of Youngstown.

For more information about the Diocesan Office of Catholic Schools, visit them on the web at www.cathdoy.org.

Sharing Hope In Tough Times

Reflections & Prayer Intention Suggestions for Your Bulletin: October 2009

October 4:

Reflection: Marriage is a partnership; it is important to share the burdens to lighten the load and to share the joys which will lighten the heart of your spouse.

Prayer Intention: That all married couples will be sustained by their partnership of love and support.

October 11:

Reflection: Make a gift (perhaps anonymously) to a charity this week with the assurance that God knows and blesses your generosity.

Prayer Intention: That all who can see no solution to the problems in their life may be consoled knowing that all things are possible for God.

October 18:

Reflection: The quality of our prayer should not be dependent on the quantity of our possessions. Go to God's throne with a sincere heart in prayer.

Prayer Intention: That all those who are struggling will not hesitate to approach the throne of God with their cares and burdens.

October 25:

Reflection: Who is calling out to you for help? Their plea may not be as loud as that of Bartimaeus but they need your kind word or action just as much.

Prayer Intention: That the pleas of those in need will reach the ears of someone who can assist them.

Alternate/Extra #1:

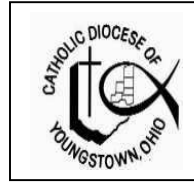
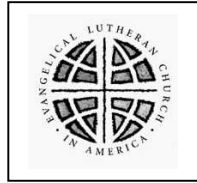
Reflection: Job loss can make a person feel beaten down. Raise up a job seeker in your life with a friendly phone call of encouragement.

Prayer Intention: That those in need of assistance may find a hand ready to help and a heart ready to listen.

Alternate/Extra #2:

Reflection: Serve someone this week by helping with apartment hunting, job searching or resume writing. You may just be the instrument God chose to answer someone's prayer.

Prayer Intention: That all who are searching for security in their lives may be assured that they are cared for by God and our community.



Lutheran Catholic Covenant Celebration 2007
Northeastern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Church in America
Diocese of Youngstown

Seek Justice:
Roman Catholic and Lutheran Understanding of Social Justice

Sunday, September 20, 2009
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Warren, OH

Schedule

2:30 p.m.	Registration
3:00 p.m.	Welcome and Opening Prayer
3:10 p.m.	Presentation on the Lutheran Understanding of Social Justice Andrew Genszler, ELCA Washington Office
3:50 p.m.	Break
4:05 p.m.	Presentation on the Roman Catholic Understanding of Social Justice Simone Campbell SSS, NETWORK
4:45 p.m.	Table Discussion
5:00 p.m.	Q and A with Presenters
5:45 p.m.	Evening Prayer
6:30 p.m.	Supper (<i>a fee will be charged for the meal</i>)

Please mark your calendar now for this special event. Registration materials will be available through parish offices. For more information, contact:

Tom Sauline, Diocese of Youngstown, 330-744-8451, ext 282, tsauline@youngstowndiocese.org

Reverend Mark Williams, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Canton, 330-492-0072, pastor-mark@neo.rr.com.

Suggested Bulletin Announcement

At your convenience, please use the page on the reverse side as a bulletin insert to announce the Lutheran-Catholic Covenant Celebration 2009. On another Sunday, or if the full-page insert does not fit the format of your bulletin, please use the following bulletin announcement. Thank you for your assistance in promoting this important event.

Seek Justice: Roman Catholic and Lutheran Understanding of Social Justice

Lutheran-Catholic Covenant Celebration 2009

Sunday, September 20, 2009

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Warren, Ohio

The Northeast Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Catholic Diocese of Youngstown announce this event celebrating the Lutheran-Catholic Covenant signed in October 2000. The day will begin with registration at 2:30 p.m. and continue with presentations by Simone Campbell SSS, Executive Director of NETWORK, and Andrew Genszler, Director for Advocacy, ELCA Washington DC Office. They will present each tradition's understanding of economic justice. The celebration concludes at 6:30 p.m. with dinner @ \$10.00 prepaid with registration.

Registration materials will be available through parishes. For more information, contact: Tom Sauline, Diocese of Youngstown, 330-744-8451, ext 282, tsauline@youngstowndiocese.org, and Reverend Mark Williams, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Canton, 330-492-0072, pastor-mark@neo.rr.com.

Suggested Intercessions

All Catholic Parishes in the Diocese of Youngstown and Lutheran Congregations in the Northeast Ohio Synod are asked to include the following intentions in their intercessory prayers on Sunday, September 20, 2009. Please add the appropriate conclusion to each intention.

For all Lutheran and Catholic faithful, that on this ninth anniversary of our diocesan/synodical Covenant, we may give thanks for the ways God has united us in prayer, study and action, we pray to the Lord...

For all efforts toward Christian unity, especially the Lutheran Catholic Covenant to which our diocese/synod is committed, that through them we may grow closer to Jesus' mandate that 'all may be one', we pray to the Lord...

*U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities***September 6**

In order to protect nature, it is not enough to intervene with economic incentives or deterrents. *The decisive issue is the overall moral tenor of society.* If there is a lack of respect for the right to life and to a natural death, if human conception, gestation and birth are made artificial, if human embryos are sacrificed to research, the conscience of society ends up losing the concept of human ecology and, along with it, that of environmental ecology. It is contradictory to insist that future generations respect the natural environment when our educational systems and laws do not help them to respect themselves.

—Pope Benedict XVI. *Charity in Truth (Caritas in Veritate)*, 51. June 29, 2009.

September 13

A particularly crucial battleground in today's cultural struggle between the supremacy of technology and human moral responsibility is the field of *bioethics*. In this most delicate and critical area, the fundamental question asserts itself force-fully: is man the product of his own labors or does he depend on God? We are presented with a clear *either/ or*. Yet the rationality of a self-centered use of technology proves to be irrational because it implies a decisive rejection of meaning and value.

—Pope Benedict XVI. *Charity in Truth (Caritas in Veritate)*, 74. June 29, 2009.

September 20

The social question has become a radically anthropological question, in the sense that it concerns not just how life is conceived but also how it is manipulated, as bio-technology places it increasingly under man's control. *In vitro* fertilization, embryo research, the possibility of manufacturing clones and human hybrids: all this is now emerging and being promoted in today's highly disillusioned culture, which believes it has mastered every mystery, because the origin of life is now within our grasp. We must not underestimate the disturbing scenarios that threaten our future, or the powerful new instruments that the “culture of death” has at its disposal.

—Pope Benedict XVI. *Charity in Truth (Caritas in Veritate)*, 75. June 29, 2009.

September 27

To the tragic and widespread scourge of abortion we may well have to add in the future the systematic eugenic programming of births. At the other end of the spectrum, a pro-euthanasia mindset is making inroads as an equally damaging assertion of control over life that under certain circumstances is deemed no longer worth living. Underlying these scenarios are cultural viewpoints that deny human dignity.

—Pope Benedict XVI. *Charity in Truth (Caritas in Veritate)*, 75. June 29, 2009.

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

Natural Family Planning Bulletin Quotes – September 2009

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

September 6

Insofar as it is bound to promote respect for the dignity of the person, civil authority should seek to create an environment conducive to the practice of chastity. It should also enact suitable legislation to prevent the spread of the grave offenses against chastity, ... especially in order to protect minors and those who are the weakest members of society.

—Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Question #494

September 13

The sharpest decline in unintended pregnancies and abortions since 1990 has occurred among those under 18, due not to comprehensive sex ed or contraception, but chiefly to the growing number of young people choosing to remain abstinent.

—Susan E. Wills, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Let the Taxpayers Beware!*

September 20

Contraceptives don't work very well in real life. In the first 12 months of contraceptive use, 16.4% of teens (1 in 6) will become pregnant. Among low-income cohabiting teens, the failure (pregnancy) rate over 12 months is 48.4% for birth control pills and 71.7% for condoms.

—Susan E. Wills, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Let the Taxpayers Beware!*

September 27

Numerous studies in the United States and Europe have found that greater access to contraception fails to reduce unintended pregnancies and abortions. A recent \$10 million intervention in England giving at-risk teens comprehensive sex education and contraception is a perfect example. Teens in the program had a pregnancy rate 2.5 times *higher* than a similar group of at-risk teens (16 vs. 6 percent).

—Susan E. Wills, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Let the Taxpayers Beware!*



Why You Matter: A Reflection on Human Dignity

By Rev. John Bartunek, LC, STL



Long ago, a Frenchman incurred the displeasure of the emperor Napoleon. He was thrown into a dungeon, forsaken by his friends, and forgotten by everyone in the outside world. In loneliness and near despair he took a stone and scratched on the wall of his cell, “Nobody cares.”

So many forces in today’s world want us to reach the same conclusion, to think that we don’t really matter, at least not very much. But these forces are craftier than Napoleon. Instead of locking us in a literal dungeon, they scorn us indirectly. They tell us, for example, that our looks, bank account, career, clothes, résumé, talents, and self-esteem are most important. In short, they put the spotlight on all kinds of different things *about* us, but they ignore *us*. And when this message tirelessly bombards us, from every form of media, it has its effect. By overvaluing those good things, we end up undervaluing the most important thing, our very self that resides beneath all the stuff and all the to-do list items. And when that happens, we also start to undervalue other persons, other selves.

This is the root of today’s cultural campaign against human dignity. Something people can *have*, like health, is given more importance than what people *are* – so we are willing to dispose of people, starting with human embryos, in order to use their stem cells to search for cures for diseases. And when health begins to wane, assisted suicide is offered as a “medical treatment” to terminate life (in several countries and U.S. states).

Something people *do*, like having sexual relations, can fully reflect their dignity as human beings. In marriage, husbands and wives are able to give themselves completely – body, soul, mind, and heart – exclusively, and for the rest of their lives. But when sex itself is elevated above the dignity of the *persons* involved,

it becomes more a way of taking physical pleasure from one’s partner rather than giving a gift of one’s whole being. When people use each other for sexual pleasure, their dignity is obscured, which can lead to abuse, abortion, sexually transmitted diseases, and pornography.

Something people are meant to enjoy, protect, and develop, like the natural environment, can turn into an idol. Some people value trees more than children, and favor drastically limiting births so fewer human beings will infest an otherwise pristine paradise.

In contrast Jesus taught that what matters most is, precisely, ourselves – our personhood, body and soul:

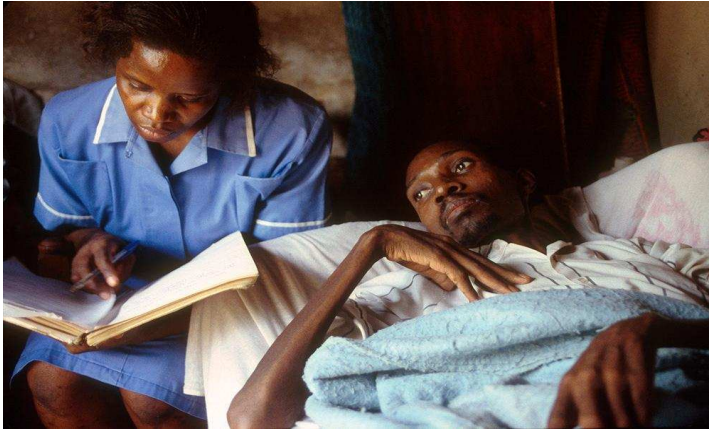


A leper now came up and bowed low in front of him. “Sir,” he said “if you want to, you can cure me.” Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him and said, “Of course I want to! Be cured!” And his leprosy was cured at once (Matthew 8:1-3).

Did you ever wonder why Jesus cured the leper by touching him? Jesus could have cured the leper with a word or a wave of his hand. That would have been much more pleasant than touching him. The bacterial skin infection of leprosy starts small, but it soon spreads, rotting the victim’s extremities (fingers, nose, lips...) and issuing a thoroughly repugnant odor. Lepers were excluded from society and left to die a slow, painful, humiliating death. To come into contact with a leper was to make oneself ritually unclean, since their disease, it was believed, was a sign of God’s punishment. Lepers were prohibited by law from coming within 100 yards of healthy people. When it came to lepers, it was true: nobody cared.

Respect Life

And yet, this leper broke the rule and approached Jesus. He came right up to him. The leper must have sensed that Jesus would not be repulsed by his disgusting disease, that he would see the person beneath the putrefaction. And he was right. Jesus not only smiled and healed him, but he actually reached out and touched him – something no one else would do. That touch made all the difference. It restored his health, his status in the community, and, most of all, it restored his dignity. The leper knew then for certain that someone did care about him, that he mattered.



The subtle lies of today's culture of death are a plague of spiritual leprosy, reducing the value of human persons to some arbitrary standard that changes like fashions. They wound us and wear us down. They make us think that we truly are, underneath it all, lepers. And so we live in bustling cities surrounded by millions of people, while in our little apartment we cry lonely tears. But Jesus is nearby, waiting for us to approach him and ask for a cure. He touches us still, if we let him, especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. To the world around us, what matters is what we possess, but to the Lord, *we matter* because we are his beloved children, created in his image, for whom he died, and with whom he wants to live forever in heaven.

Lately, some scientists have been spending a lot of time and money trying to show the contrary, that animals and people and even machines are pretty much all the same – just different combinations of the same material elements. It's interesting to note that none of the animals or machines that they have been experimenting with have given any evidence of doing similar experiments on the scientists. That's because human beings are different; their God-given dignity makes them so.

Discovering how much we matter frees us from the slow death of spiritual leprosy. It also shows us how to live. As St Paul put it, "You should befriend each other, then, as Christ has befriended you" (Romans 15:7). This is the game plan of all the saints.

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta executed this plan beautifully. Once she was staying with a community of sisters working among the Aborigines in Australia. She visited an elderly man who lived in total isolation, ignored by everyone. His home was a filthy wreck. She told him, "Please let me clean your house, wash your clothes and make your bed." He answered, "I'm OK like this. Let it be." She said, "You will be still better if you allow me to do it." He finally agreed. While she was cleaning, she discovered a beautiful lamp, covered with dust; it looked like it hadn't been used in years. "Don't you light that lamp?" she said, "Don't you ever use it?" He answered, "No. No one comes to see me. I have no need to light it. Who would I do it for?" Mother Teresa asked, "Would you light it every night if the sisters came?" He replied, "Of course." From that day on, the sisters committed themselves to visiting him every evening. Mother Teresa left Australia. Two years passed. She had completely forgotten about that encounter. Then she received a message from him: "Tell my friend that the light she lit in my life still continues to shine."

You matter. That's why Christ came into your life, cleaned your soul, 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.

Even Napoleon's prisoner discovered this. One day a green shoot came up through the cracks in the stones on the dungeon's floor. It began to reach up toward the light in the tiny window at the top of the cell. The prisoner used some of the water brought to him each day to pour on the tiny sprout. It grew slowly until at last it became a plant with a deep blue flower. As the petals opened in full blossom, the solitary captive crossed out the words previously written on the wall. "God cares," he scratched instead.

Father Bartunek, LC is author of The Better Part and Inside the Passion.

EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS BULLETIN BRIEFS SEPTEMBER 2009

Sunday, September 6, 2009
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Those who devote themselves to the ministry of catechesis play a vital role in the church's pastoral activity. Enlightened by God's Word and the teaching of the Church, and inspired by their own life of prayer and witness, catechists lead others to know the living Jesus Christ through word and deed. Through the ministry of catechesis, catechists provide a process of initiation and formation for those in their care, introducing them to the truths of faith, which they themselves have learned, lived, and celebrated.

Sunday, September 13, 2009
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Lifelong learning leads to mature discipleship in Jesus Christ. Every moment and every activity is an opportunity to encounter closer a relationship with Jesus Christ. The National Directory for Catechesis from the Catholic Bishops of the United States emphasizes this point: "Catechesis leads people to enter the mystery of Christ, to encounter him, and to discover themselves and the meaning of their lives in him" (19.B [Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), 2005]).

Sunday, September 20, 2009
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has designated today as Catechetical Sunday, a time to recognize and appreciate those who are serving as catechists in a variety of ways. Let us pray with and for all priests, parents, catechists, youth leaders, RCIA ministers, adult faith formation facilitators and others who generously give of their time to pass on the faith. As you remember those active in our parish today, also pray for the special persons in your life who have been faith mentors to you.

Sunday, September 27, 2009
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

"The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch, but also in communion and intimacy, with Jesus Christ." (#80 The General Directory for Catechesis, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1997). The Church and its community of believers not only informs about the faith tradition, it forms lifelong relationships rooted in Jesus Christ.

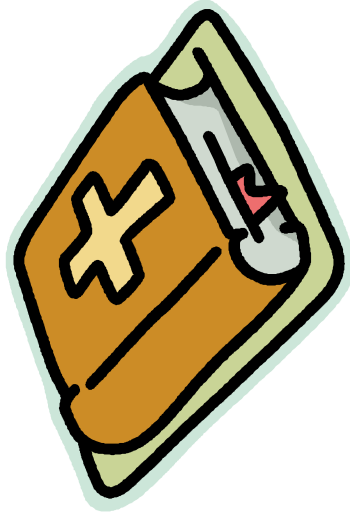


ACTION

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

Scripture

Reflection



Year B

2009

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.

○ 23 rd Sunday	Sept 6	Mk 7: 31-37
○ 24 th Sunday	Sept 13	Mk 8: 27-35
○ 25 th Sunday	Sept 20	Mk 9: 30-37
○ 26 th Sunday	Sept 27	Mk 9: 38-43,45, 47-48
○ 27 th Sunday	Oct 4	Mk 10: 2-16
○ 28 th Sunday	Oct 11	Mk 10: 17-30
○ 29 th Sunday	Oct 18	Mk 10: 35-45
○ 30 th Sunday	Oct 25	Mk 10: 46-52
○ All Saints	Nov 1	Mt 5: 1-12a
○ 32 nd Sunday	Nov 8	Mk 12: 38-44
○ 33 rd Sunday	Nov 15	Mk 13: 24-32
○ Christ the King	Nov 22	Jn 18: 33b-37

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 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" [McKenma 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.

Diocese of Youngstown
Office of Religious
Education
225 Elm Street
Youngstown, OH 44503

Seek Justice:

Lutheran and Catholic Understanding of Social Justice

Lutheran-Catholic Covenant
Celebration

September 20, 2009

St. Paul Lutheran Church,
Warren, OH

Sponsored by
Roman Catholic Diocese of Youngstown
and
Northeastern Ohio Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America

Directions to

St. Paul Lutheran Church
2860 E. Market Street
330-394-5741

FROM THE NORTH

OH-11S merge onto OH-82W toward Warren.
Turn slight left onto ramp. Merge onto E. Market
Street.

FROM THE EAST

I-680N toward Cleveland/Akron. Merge onto OH-
711N via Exit 3A toward I-80/Girard/New York.
Merge onto OH-82 via exit on the left toward
Warren. Turn slight left onto ramp. Merge onto E.
Market Street.

FROM THE SOUTH

US-30W to OH-11N. Merge onto OH-11N via exit
228 on the left toward Airport/Warren/Ashtabula.
Merge onto OH-82W via the exit on the left toward
Warren. Turn slight left onto ramp. Merge onto E.
Market Street.

FROM THE WEST

I-76E to I-80E toward New York City. Merge onto
OH-11N via exit 228 on the left toward
Airport/Warren/Ashtabula. Merge onto OH-82W
toward Warren. Turn slight left onto ramp. Merge
onto E. Market Street.

Covenant Celebration 2009

This event celebrates the Lutheran-Catholic Covenant signed in October 2000. 2009 also marks the tenth anniversary of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification.

Simone Campbell SSS, Executive Director of NETWORK, and Andrew Genszler, Director for Advocacy of ELCA Washington Office, will present each tradition's teaching on economic justice.

A fee will offering to support shared ministries will be collected during Evening Prayer.

Individuals are asked to register for the day. Advance registration will facilitate your seating at the sessions. A fee of \$10.00 made payable to the Diocese of Youngstown must accompany the registration of those who sign up for supper.

Neighboring Lutheran and Catholic congregations are encouraged to register together. Copy this brochure as needed.

Covenant Celebration
Diocese of Youngstown, Office of Religious Education
225 Elm Street, Youngstown, OH 44503

Please return by September 8 to:

Make checks payable to the Diocese of Youngstown

Dinner (Fee of \$10.00 per person must accompany registration.)

Churches: _____

If interested in talking with a neighboring church, check here. _____

If interested in talking with those ages 15-21, check here. Age _____.

Discussion Tables _____

Afternoon Study Session _____

I am planning to attend: _____

Church/City _____

Home Phone _____

Address/City/State/Zip _____

Name _____ E-Mail _____

Please circle one: Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms. Sister Reverend Deacon Dr. Brother

Lutheran-Catholic Covenant Celebration

Schedule

2:30 p.m.	Registration
3:00 p.m.	Welcome & Opening Prayer
3:10 p.m.	Presentation
3:50 p.m.	Break
4:05 p.m.	Presentation
4:45 p.m.	Table Discussion
5:00 p.m.	Q & A with Presenters
5:30 p.m.	Break
5:45 p.m.	Evening Prayer
6:30 p.m.	Supper (Prepayment required)

For more information or additional brochures
contact:

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Catholic Diocese of Youngstown
330-744-8451 Ext. 300
tsauline@youngstowndiocese.org
or
Reverend Mark Williams
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Canton, OH
330-492-0072
pastor-mark@neo.rr.com

or visit the
Lutheran Catholic Covenant website:
www.lccovenant.org