



*Office of Stewardship and Development
Diocese of Madison
Third Quarter 2010*

Annual Catholic Appeal 2010

Thank you for all your help making the 2010 Annual Catholic Appeal a success. Phase II of the appeal is well under way. As of this writing, eighteen parishes have exceeded goal, congratulations to the following parishes:

Cathedral Parish - Madison	Ss. Mary and Paul – Mineral Point
Holy Family – Markesan	Holy Redeemer – Perry
Immaculate Conception – Blanchardville	St. Frances Xavier – Lake Mills
St. John – Patch Grove	St. Joseph – Rio
St. Joseph – Madison	St. Joseph – Edgerton
St. Lawrence – Jefferson	St. Mary – Pine Bluff
St. Mary of the Most Holy Rosary – Pardeeville	St. Michael – Calamine
St. Norbert – Roxbury	St. Patrick – Hollandale
St. Peter – Elk Grove	St. Thomas - Montfort

Please remember, if you receive a contribution to the ACA from a parishioner who has written their check to the parish, please endorse the check over to the diocese for proper crediting to that person's pledge. All contributions to the ACA will be acknowledged by the diocese.

If you have questions, please contact Daun Maier at (608) 821-3046 or Jill Driscoll at (608) 821-3039.

Time, Talent and Treasure / Offertory Program

The dates have been set to conduct your Time, Talent and Treasure or Offertory programs in your parish.

Announcement Weekend – October 16 – 17, 2010
Commitment Weekend – October 23 – 24, 2010
Follow Up Weekend – October 30 – 31, 2010

If your parish needs a refresher on Time, Talent and Treasure or the Offertory program, this course will be offered in early Fall. More information will be coming on dates, times and locations.

If your parish has not participated in the workshops to learn how to conduct these programs in your parish, and you would like to learn how the Offertory program can assist in increasing your offertory income, please contact Daun Maier at 608-821-3046 or Jill Driscoll at 608-821-3039 to schedule a time to go through these workshops.

Stewardship Bulletin Reflections

NOTE: *Please copy this page or pull it out for the person who prepares your weekly bulletins.*

July 4, 2010

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals..." - Luke 10:4

The story of Jesus sending out the 72 disciples reminds us that, as Christ's disciples, we should not be overly concerned with material possessions. We also are expected to willingly share what we have with those who bring God's message to us.

July 11, 2010

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Go and do likewise." - Luke 10:37

This was Jesus' simple command to all of us at the end of the Good Samaritan story. How do we do "likewise?" By taking the time to help when we are needed. By sharing our skills. By reaching into our pockets when financial help is needed. In short, by being a good steward.

July 18, 2010

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her." - Luke 10:42

The story of Martha and Mary reminds us that God wants each of us to serve Him, just as Martha so graciously served. However, we will never know what God wants us to do unless we spend some time like Mary did, just sitting quietly at God's feet and listening to His words.

July 25, 2010

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." - Luke 11:9

Jesus assures us that if we ask Him, God will take care of what we need. The problem is that in our culture we often confuse what we really need with what we simply want. We need very little. However, we usually want so much more. A good steward only asks God for what he needs.

August 1, 2010

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions."
- Luke 12:15*

The Gospel message today is so contrary to our modern culture where advertising continually tries to convince us that our value lies in the many things we possess. Jesus showed us that our true value lies in the

way we live our lives. He challenges us to not store up or hoard material possessions. Rather, strive to be rich in that which matters to God.

August 8, 2010

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be." - Luke 12:34

Jesus encourages us to build up our treasure in heaven. The world encourages us to build up our treasure in real estate, investments, and material goods. How much time are you investing in building up a worldly treasure? How much time are you investing in building up a heavenly treasure? To invest more time in the things of heaven, you must let go of some of the things of this world.

August 15, 2010

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin

"The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name." - Luke 1:49

In Mary's Magnificat prayer she reminds us of the very foundation for stewardship. The Lord has done great things for all of us. Every single thing we have is a gift from God. He has blessed us abundantly – in little ways and in great ways. So when we are called upon to share some of our gifts with the world we should remember the lesson of the Blessed Virgin. We should say, "Yes," trusting that God is good and He will take care of us. He does great things for us!

August 22, 2010

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

"For behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last." - Luke 13:30

Our standards in our society are so different from God's standards. We often rate or rank people by what they have, how powerful they are, or how successful they are. Jesus reminds us that God will not judge us by the same earthly standards.

August 29, 2010

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you." - Luke 14:14

We have a difficult time with the concept of giving without expecting something in return. Even when we give to charity we often want something in return – a raffle ticket, a dinner, or a chance to play golf. Yet, as Christian stewards we need to remember that the true reward for our giving awaits us in heaven.

September 5, 2010

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple." - Luke 14:33

When we first hear this statement, it seems that Jesus is making an unrealistic demand upon us. How can we

renounce all of our possessions? We need them to live. However, what we must renounce is the belief that they belong to us. Everything that we have belongs to God alone. All of our resources are entrusted to us not only for our own use, but also so that we can help others. Once we renounce the idea that we possess or are entitled to anything, it is much easier to share the many gifts that God has given us. Then we truly are His Disciples.

September 12, 2010

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Everything I have is yours." - Luke 15:31

Our Heavenly Father gives us everything, including the chance to share in His eternal kingdom. Yet, like the Prodigal Son we are often lured away by the materialism of our society. Do we really want to turn our backs on all that God offers in exchange for a material wealth that has no lasting value?

September 19, 2010

Stewardship Awareness Sunday

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"It is my wish, then, that in every place the people should pray, lifting up holy hands, without anger or argument." - 1 Timothy 2:8

Try to make it a habit to give God the first few minutes of each day by simply praying, "Lord, what do You want me to do today with all the gifts You have given me?" Then be sure to listen for His response throughout each day.

September 26, 2010

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented. Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established..." - Luke 16:25-26

When God created the world He declared that it was good and He gave it to all mankind for us to enjoy. However, over the years we have created a chasm between those who have great gifts and those who do not. In today's Gospel we see that with our own generosity we must bridge that gap between those who have much and those who have little or we may find ourselves on the wrong side of the chasm in the next life.

Prayers of the Faithful

July 4, 2010

That we may learn to more deeply trust God to provide us with all that we need.

July 11, 2010

That we may strive to be more like the Good Samaritan, sharing our time, talent and treasure where it is needed.

July 18, 2010

That, like Mary, we may find time this week to be with Jesus in prayer.

July 25, 2010

That we may learn to see the difference between the simple things we need and the many things we want.

August 1, 2010

That we may remember that the many possessions we strive to acquire are worthless in the eyes of the Lord.

August 8, 2010

That we may invest more time and talent in building up a treasure in heaven.

August 15, 2010

That, like our Blessed Mother, we may say "Yes" to what God calls us to do, always remembering that God has done great things for us.

August 22, 2010

That, through our good stewardship, we may build up God's kingdom here on earth and merit for ourselves a place at God's eternal banquet.

August 29, 2010

That, through our generous giving, we may allow those who are needy to share in the banquet of blessings that God has bestowed on us.

September 5, 2010

That we may come to more fully realize that everything we have is a gift from God and we are called to generously share these gifts with all who are in need.

September 12, 2010

That we may learn to see ourselves as God's beloved children who have a responsibility to work in God's kingdom and spread God's love throughout our world.

September 19, 2010

That we may find more time to pray, to thank God for all of His gifts and to ask God how He wishes us to use the gifts that He has entrusted to our care.

September 26, 2010

That our eyes may be open to the needs around us and our hands and hearts may be open to sharing our gifts to make this world a better place for all of us.

With acknowledgment to the Archdiocese of St. Louis