

SERVANT LEADER

STEWARDSHIP - A WAY OF LIVING

Last Sunday we began the **Stewardship - A Way of Living** process at our Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. It is an important and significant event in the life of our parish, one that I hope will change how we view our world and our lives as well as the life of our parish. **Stewardship - A Way of Living** has a strong connection with Pope Benedict XVI latest encyclical *Charity in Truth*.

In the coming weeks you will hear more about the stewardship in our parish and how it can be our personal stewardship journey.

At the end of the **Stewardship - A Way of Living** process, you will have the blessed opportunity to make a specific commitment of your time, talent, and treasure to our parish as we return our commitment forms on Stewardship Commitment Weekend, November 8th.

Christian stewardship begins with a sense of who we are as Christians – as disciples of our Lord Jesus. A good steward recognizes that all blessings come from the Lord and these blessings are to be used to serve all of creation.

This concept of **Stewardship - A Way of Living** focuses not on our temporal (temporary) needs such as facilities and debt; rather, it focuses on our spiritual “need to give.” This need lies within all our hearts. Our loving God created us in His image with the potential – and expectation - that we share our gifts with the world around us.

Stewardship indeed is a way of living. It is a lifestyle, a life of total accountability and responsibility. It is the acknowledging of God as the Creator and the Owner of all. Christian Stewards see themselves as the caretakers of all God’s gifts. Gratitude for these many gifts is expressed in our prayer, worship, offerings and action. Stewardship is a way of thanking God for all our blessings by returning to God a portion of the many gifts (everything we have - our time, talent and treasure) that we have been given.

In the coming weeks we will be called, as God’s faithful servants and members of our parish, to:

- † Prayerfully discern how God has uniquely gifted each one of us – our time, our talents and our treasure.
- † Reflect on what priority God and His Church play in our lives.
- † Decide how we plan to share these gifts with God and His Church.
- † Make an intentional, planned and proportionate gift to God and His Church in the areas of:

TIME IN PRAYER, TALENT, AND TREASURE

Many solid biblical foundations show that a disciple of Jesus is truly a thankful, responsible and generous caretaker of God's many blessings. In short, Jesus' disciples practice authentic stewardship.

While the New Testament does not provide a total portrait of the Christian steward all in one place, elements of this image abound in its pages. Based on several parables and the many apostolic instructions, Jesus' disciples understood they were to share their gifts with others.

Guided by Scripture, we believe that the Christian steward is a person whose prayer leads to a constant awareness that God is the creator of all blessings in life - spiritual and material. Jesus presented the ultimate gift to God - the gift of his life - and we, too, are called to follow in Jesus' footsteps by:

- ✘ Receiving God's gifts gratefully
- ✘ Cultivating them responsibly
- ✘ Sharing them lovingly in justice with others
- ✘ Returning them with increase to the Lord

God has entrusted to us as Catholics the gifts of material creation, individual vocation, and the Church. Gratefully caring for these gifts leads to these tangible examples of stewardship in our daily lives:

STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION: Respecting life, protecting the environment and developing our world through noble human labor

STEWARDSHIP OF VOCATION: Faithfully carrying out our unique individual roles in God's plan

STEWARDSHIP OF THE CHURCH: Prayerfully sharing our time, talent and treasure to fulfill the mission of the parish, diocese and universal Church.

Stewardship as a way of life has astonishing implications for our relationships and daily lives. We can experience life-shaping changes of mind and heart as we commit ourselves to the Lord. Recognizing God as the origin of life, we are grateful for the gifts we have received and are eager to use them to show our love for God and one another.

The journey of discipleship is one of intense joy, fulfillment and peace. As Mary the mother of Jesus lived her ministry in a spirit of fidelity and service, we can find the same favor with God by living as authentic stewards of our world, our vocation, and our Church.

STEWARDSHIP - A WAY OF LIVING QUICK SUMMARY

Stewardship encourages everyone to participate in the task of building the Kingdom of God. God has gifted each of us with everything — our very lives. We are responsible for caring for these gifts, and accountable for what we do with these gifts. Stewardship rejects the notion that we must “have it all” and, instead, demonstrates the value of giving in love, in service and in justice.

~ STEWARDSHIP PRAYER ~

Praised are you, O God, our loving creator and giver of all good gifts. Bless our parish, strengthen our faith and grant us the spirit of Christian stewardship so that we may give generously or our time in worship and prayer, our talent, and our treasure to the spread of Your Kingdom here in our Church with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

~ CHARITY IN TRUTH ~

On this Mission Sunday, Pope Benedict XVI recent encyclical, *Caritas in Veritate*, provides a timely challenge to a contemporary world in which the gap between the “haves” and the “have-nots” continues to grow, where materialism and individualism are sought after in place of authentic human fulfillment and where the “consumer” and short term “profit” have become the benchmarks of too many capitalists and too many capitalist enterprises.

If anything is clear after a thorough reading of the encyclical it is that despite the “fall of communism” in the former Soviet Union and its satellites, capitalism has not triumphed as a means to guarantee human development. The melt down of Wall Street, the personal and institutional corruption that has come to light in the world of banking, investment and politics, has provided just the right context to prove the need for a call to all members of society to rekindle a vision of a human society based on true charity, a charity based in truth. The encyclical takes as its primary point of departure, the encyclical of Pope Paul VI, *Populorum Progressio*. Celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the publication of that encyclical, *Caritas in Veritate* is both a theological reflection on the meaning of true human development and a systematic analysis of the challenges to that integral development in the contemporary world. “*More than forty years after Populorum Progressio, its basic theme, namely progress, remains an open question.*” (33) In other words, this encyclical is primarily concerned with developing an understanding of “progress” and “development” that is meaningful for human society at the beginning of the twentieth century and particularly one that works within an increasingly “global” society.

Promoting human development Pope Benedict XVI teaches that there are three essential themes to Catholic Social Teaching, three themes that make love a truly authentic love, make it truthful: 1) that each person is made as the *imago Dei* (the image of God); 2) that the *common good* is the only true guarantor of the *individual good*; 3) that the *imago Dei* and the *common good* can only truly pursued and protected with a commitment to a *consistent ethic of life*.

The encyclical makes it clear that authentic human development must include God and the understanding of every person created in God’s image. “*Such development requires a transcendent vision of the person, it needs God; without him, development is either denied, or entrusted exclusively to humanity, which falls into the trap of thinking it can bring about its own salvation, and ends up promoting a dehumanized form of development. Only through an encounter with God are we able to see in the other something more than just another creature, to recognize the divine image in the other, thus truly coming to discover him or her and to mature in a love that ‘becomes concern and care for the other.’*” (11)

The encyclical raises up another essential lynchpin of Catholic social morality, *the common good*. “*Another important consideration is the common good. To love someone is to desire that person’s good and to take effective steps to secure it. Besides the good of the individual there is a good that is linked to living in society - the common good. It is the good of ‘all of us’... It is good that is sought not for its own sake, but for the people who belong to the social community.*”

The encyclical clearly articulates the moral disjunction that erupts when social “progress” is divorced from a consistent ethic of life. It is impossible to address the issue of poverty without addressing abortion and euthanasia, among other life issues. As Pope Benedict XVI says, “*...the social question has become a radically anthropological question.*” (75) “*While the poor of the world continue knocking on the doors of the rich, the world of affluence runs the risk of no longer hearing those knocks, on account of a conscience that can no longer distinguish what is human.*” (75)

The Pope then addresses some particular issues that deserve attention if this encyclical will have any direct moral impact on the Church and society. He identifies “speculative financial dealing, large-scale migration of peoples, and the unregulated exploitation of the earth’s resources.” (21) He shows concerns for the downside of “outsourcing,” the downsizing of social security systems,” the difficulties that trade unions are experiencing “in carrying out their task of representing the interest of workers.” For the Pope, these are not themes to be identified with any particular political party, rather they are part and parcel of the theme of authentic human development. Every society needs to develop just policies and laws that protect the integrity of every citizen. He clearly sees the excesses of *laissez faire* capitalism as antithetical to full human development. In all of this, we are reminded that the “primary capital to be safeguarded and valued” is the human person. “The human being is the source, the focus and the aim of all economic and social life.” (25) The encyclical is a timely reminder that the Church in her wisdom has always taught that “people” come before “profit.” Capitalism must have a human face and spiritual soul otherwise it becomes a cold and evil taskmaster.

Pope Benedict XVI also discusses the connection between the environment and authentic development. *“This invites contemporary society to a serious review of its life-style, which, in many parts of the world, is prone to hedonism and consumerism, regardless of their harmful consequences. What is needed is an effective shift in mentality which can lead to the adoption of new life-styles ‘in which the quest for truth, beauty, goodness and communion with others for the sake of the common growth are the factors which determine consumer choices, savings and investments.’”* (51) Following up on this is the reminder that “consumer choices are always moral choices.” In other words, for those of us who enjoy a developed economy, there is a moral imperative to ask ourselves before every retail purchase, “is this something I and my family ‘need’, or is it simply something I ‘want’? The reality is that the greatest threat to the environment is not the earths’ population but the developed worlds thirst for unfettered consumerism.

The underlying message of this encyclical is a call to authentic spirituality. Pope Benedict XVI reiterates in different places that unless each person realizes that everything we are and have is a gift, integral human development cannot even get off the ground. If development is only measured by the amount of material wealth owned by individuals and countries, we will have missed the essential message of the encyclical. While we are called to address and remediate the evil of poverty and to dismantle the sinful structures that support injustice and continue to impoverish so many of our sisters and brothers, we also have to admit that any vision of development that does not include spiritual and moral growth is a false god. *“Development needs Christians with their arms raised towards God in prayer, Christians moved by knowledge that truth-filled love, caritas in veritate, from which authentic development proceeds, is not produced by us, but given to us. For this reason, ...we must above all else turn to God’s love. Development requires attention to the spiritual life, a serious consideration of the experiences of trust in God, spiritual fellowship in Christ, reliance upon God’s providence and mercy, love and forgiveness, self-denial, acceptance of others, justice and peace.”* (79)

~ PRAYER OF ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX TO KNOW GOD’S WILL ~

Lord grant that I may always allow myself to be guided by you, always follow your plans, and perfectly accomplish Your holy will.

Grant that in all things, great and small, today and all the days of my life, I may do whatever you may require of me. Help me to respond to the slightest prompting of Your grace, so that I may be your trust-worthy instrument. May Your will be done in time and eternity, by me, in me, and through me. Amen.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

~ SACRAMENTO CHORAL SOCIETY ~

The Sacramento Choral Society is launching its new season with a *Sacramento Stained Glass* Concert Series at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Come discover the recently renovated Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament at the *Tribute to the English Cathedral Tradition* on Saturday, November 7, 2009, at 8:00 PM.

Donald Kendrick,
C o n d u c t o r ;
Stephen Janzen,
Organist; Soloists:
Alison Reid,
Soprano, Daniel
Yoder, Baritone.
Featuring the
Malcolm Archer
Requiem; and
w o r k s b y
V a u g h a n
Williams, Parry,
Stanford. Tickets
\$12.50—\$25.00
A V A I L A B L E
O N L I N E o r b y
c a l l i n g (9 1 6) 5 3 6 -



9065. Post Concert Reception. In proud partnership with KFIA AM, KTKZ AM , KKFS FM & KSAC FM. For more information email scso2005@yahoo.com (916) 536-9065. Visit http://sacramentochoral.com/DEPARTMENTS/STAINED_GLASS/nov72009.html

~ A TASTE OF NAPOLI/BISHOP QUINN ~

Join Bishop Francis A. Quinn, honorary chair, at "A Taste of Napoli," a food and wine tasting event on Saturday, Nov. 21 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center, 6520 Van Maren Lane, Citrus Heights. Stroll about tasting foods of Italy, sipping wines from a dozen wineries, viewing art, and enjoying a short live auction. Tickets to this gala are \$50 each.

Advance purchase required. Reserve overnight accommodations for \$125 double occupancy. Funds raised will go to scholarships and maintenance and facilities needs. Space is limited. Send payment to 6520 Van Maren Lane, Citrus Heights, 95621 or visit Passionist.org/ChristTheKing and download an order form. For more information, call Loretta at (916) 725-4720, ext. 323.



~ COPING WITH LIFE ALONE ~

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE OF SACRAMENTO

The focus of Coping with Life Alone is to offer you the support and encouragement you need to deal with the pain of your loss and to help you look with renewed hope towards a fulfilling future.

When: Fridays, Starting October 16, 2009
(For Ten (10) consecutive weeks)

Time: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
(Please come by 6:45 the first week to register)

Place: Our Lady of Assumption Church
5057 Cottage Way, Carmichael, CA 95608 (at Walnut Ave.)

Fee: A registration fee of \$10.00 and a weekly meeting fee of \$5 per week or you can prepay \$40 for all ten sessions (\$50.00 including the registration fee.)

Contact: For more information call (916) 835-2282 or visit our web site at:

www.sacramentobe.org

Beginning Experience Support Group has been offering special programs for more than 30 years. Its purpose is to offer a community for friendship, guidance, strength and companionship for men and women of all faiths who are now alone due to the death, divorce or separation from a loved one.

~ RESPECT LIFE COORDINATOR ~

The Diocese of Sacramento has an immediate opening for a Respect Life Coordinator. This full-time position provides leadership in all aspects of the Catholic Church's pro-life mission. The successful candidate must be fluent in both English and Spanish. For a full job description please visit www.diocese-sacramento.org under Employment: Job Announcements. Applications must be received no later than October 31, 2009

~ FAMILY FAITH FEST ~

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish will facilitate a Family Faith Fest on Saturday, November 7, 2009, from 2:30-6pm for families with high school and/or junior high youth. Are you LIVING your faith or just talking about it? Families are welcome to join us for Family Faith Fest on Saturday, November 7, 2009 from 2:30-6pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Sacramento. Featuring Ansel Augustine, Father J. Derran Combs, O.F.M., Mass, music by Dennis Brown and Bishop Jaime Soto. To RSVP or for more information, contact Charlene Harris at 916-733-0123 or bcc@diocese-sacramento.org.

~ WORLD MISSION SUNDAY TODAY ~

Today, Sunday October 18, is World Mission Sunday, a day set aside for Catholics worldwide to recommit themselves to the Church's missionary activity through prayer and sacrifice. The needs of the Catholic Church's Missions are growing as new dioceses are formed, new seminaries are opened, and as areas devastated by war, natural disasters, or political suppression are rebuilt. Approximately 1,150 mission dioceses in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Pacific Islands receive regular annual assistance from funds collected through this special appeal. This is a practical way for us to show Christ's love for those whose practice of our faith needs our support. Please be generous.

~ CALLED AND CHOSEN ~

The Diocese of Sacramento will hold a Young Adult Conference on Saturday, December 5, 2009. Open to all young adults (age 18-39) Join us at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in El Dorado Hills. The day will feature Stan Cordero, Delis Alejandro and the Young Adult Ministry Team from St. Monica Parish in Santa Monica, CA, with music from Papa Joe Lucero and his band! Cost for the day is \$20 and includes lunch, a t-shirt and childcare. Register at www.yaconference.com or call 916-733-0152.

~ LAY FORMATION INSTITUTE ~

NEW Lay Formation Institute, Year 1, at Divine Savior Parish, Orangevale: Classes will be Saturdays, 8:00am – 4:30pm; **Oct. 24**, Mrs. Sandra Holland will present **“Celebration of the Christian Mystery: How & Why?”** The courses that follow on Nov. 21, Jan. 16, March 20, April 17 and May 1 will complete all the educational requirements for basic certification. The cost is \$25.00 per 8 hour class. Bring a bag lunch. To register, call the Department of Evangelization & Catechesis, 916.733.0123. **8 hours toward Basic Certification.**

~ SCRIPTURE INSTITUTE ~

Cycle One: Acts of the Apostles with Fr. Art Wehr, S.J. Tuesday evenings 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Diocesan Pastoral Center through Oct. 27.

Cycle Two on Wisdom Literature with Fr. Robert Pre-sutti, L.C., Fr. Dan Looney and Chuck Zanetti runs Nov. 3 through Dec. 8;

Cycle Three on the Gospel of Luke with Sr. Katherine Doyle, RSM runs Feb. 2 through March 23, excluding Feb. 23. \$10 per session or \$40 per cycle. For more information

call the Department of Evangelization & Catechesis, 916.733.0123. **2 Hours toward Renewal of Basic Certification each session or 12 hours per cycle.**

~ NEW WORKSHOP ~

New Acts of the Apostles – Presented by Fr. Art Wehr, S.J. Sept. 29, Oct. 6, 13 & 20 at St. Ignatius Parish, Campion Center, 3235 Arden Way, Sacramento. \$15 for the series. No Registration required. Contact Fatima-Ohlsen for more information - fohlsen@stignatiussac.org OR 916-482-9666, x 238. **Each session counts 1.5 hours toward Renewal of Certification.**

CATHEDRAL MASS SCHEDULE

- MON 10/19/2009 ST. JOHN DE BREBEUF & ISAAC
JOGUES & COMPANIONS**
Rom 4: 20-25; Lk 12: 13-21
12:10 pm: Mae Manning +
5:10 pm: Konjevod & Matic Family
- TUES 10/20/2009 ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS**
Rom 5-12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21; Lk 12: 35-38
12:10 pm: Durvalina Gouveia, S.I.
5:10 pm: Cvijepa Konjerod +
- WED 10/21/2009 29TH WEEKDAY**
Rom 6: 12-18; Lk 12: 39-48
12:10 pm: Mae Manning +
5:10 pm: Avelina Dioquino +
- THU 10/22/2009 29TH WEEKDAY**
Rom 6: 19-23; Lk 12: 49-53
12:10 pm: Tony & Edward Dulacki +
5:10 pm: Mandica Konjevod +
- FRI 10/23/2009 ST. JOHN OF CAPISTRANO**
Rom 7: 18-25a; Lk 12: 54-59
12:10 pm: Uka SZab-Soto +

NO EVENING MASS ON FRIDAYS

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
WED & THUR 12:40PM-4:45PM FRI 12:40PM-3:45PM
TO SIGN UP CALL ISABELLA CAZARES 391-1760 OR 833-1948,
OR E-MAIL BECAZ96@SBCGLOBAL.NET

CATHEDRAL TOURS EVERY SUNDAY
AFTER 9:00 AM AND 11 AM MASSES

New Parishioner Registration and Change of Address Form

Name: _____ Envelope No.: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Fill out and deposit in Offertory Basket. Thank You!