

INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP

June 2019 • e-Bulletin

A TRINITARIAN STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

God our Creator,
You made us all that we are
and gave us all that we possess.
Open our hearts so that we
may live fully,
in gratitude
for the abundant gifts
entrusted to us.

Jesus our Redeemer,
You showed us how to attain
eternal life
by following in your footsteps, and
by our loving service to others;
thereby proclaiming your Gospel
in word and deed.

Holy Spirit,
Lift us up and be with us each day.
Teach us, guide us and give us
the courage
to embrace stewardship
as a way of life
in Christ
as we journey along our pilgrim way
back to the Father.

We ask this through our
Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with the Father
and the Holy Spirit,
One God, forever and ever.

Amen.

Stewards of the Church in the 21st Century

By Mary Ann Otto, Pastoral Minister for Missionary Discipleship,
St. Mary and St. Joseph Parishes, Appleton, Wisconsin

As we approach Pentecost, we anticipate an event so powerful that even after two thousand years it is hard to fully grasp its impact. The transforming nature of the Holy Spirit raised up a small group of courageous disciples to carry the mission and message of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. Proclaiming their encounter with the risen Lord without Church buildings, budgets, a catechism and technology, they were directed to steward the loving, forgiving and hopeful message of Jesus Christ to the world. The life-altering result of their early ministry brought the small early Christian community to a worldwide Church that numbers in the billions.



It is interesting to consider the journey of faith taken by these early disciples in light of the words of the United States bishops in their pastoral letter, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, in describing what Christian stewards do. To say that these disciples *received God's gift of the Good News of Jesus gratefully*,

Our Church has been blessed with longevity and a rich deposit of faith.

nurtured it together with passion and faithfulness responsibly, shared it generously at the risk of losing their lives and returned to God in abundance is truly an understatement. How did they spread the Gospel in dangerous times with so little at their disposal?

Imagining what it might be like to sit with Mary of Magdala, Peter, Paul, Priscilla and Aquila and a few other brave and faithful disciples around a table, I cannot help but believe that they might encourage us to go back to our roots and announce the Good News to our neighbors with courage, passion and trust.

Our Church has been blessed with longevity and a rich deposit of faith. Pope Francis, however, reminds us that our first responsibility is to share the kerygma, that foundational proclamation of our faith, with everyone we encounter. *Jesus loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you.* This "Good News" should be imbedded deeply in the hearts and expressed passionately on the lips of every Christian steward of the 21st century Church. For many of us, the pontiff's constant reminder has been an incredible shift in the way we understand what it means to be a disciple. If we reflect, however, on our efforts to speak the Good News aloud, it is always accompanied by the presence and blessing of the Holy Spirit. What might the early disciples say? Perhaps it would be: "Brothers and sisters in Christ, be brave and speak up! It is your turn!"



**Important Notice for
all ICSC Parish Members!**

ICSC 2019 Parish Stewardship Award Information

Has your parish developed
stewardship materials that
would help others?

Did your committee work hard
on resources you are proud of?

***Please consider applying for
one or more ICSC Parish
Awards in 2019.***

Parishes at all stages of the
stewardship journey are
encouraged to apply!

Entries will be judged by
members of the ICSC Parish
Stewardship Education and
Services Committee.

***Application Deadline is
June 30.***

All applicants will be contacted
by July 31.

Additional information, list of
awards and entry forms are
available on the ICSC website:

[catholicstewardship.com/
stewardship-awards/](http://catholicstewardship.com/stewardship-awards/)

STEWARDSHIP SAINT *for June*



**María Guadalupe
García Zavala**

María Guadalupe García Zavala was born in 1878 in Zapopan, Jalisco, Mexico. As a child she made frequent visits to the Basilica of Our Lady of Zapopan, located next to her father's religious goods shop. Her acquaintances said Maria treated everyone with equal respect and kindness.

At age 23, Maria was engaged to be married, but broke it off because of a growing sense that the Lord was calling her to life in religious community and of service to the sick and the poor. When she confided this change of heart to her spiritual director, he revealed his own desire to

establish a religious community to work with those who were hospitalized. He invited María to join him.

The new congregation, which officially began in 1901, was known as the "Handmaids of St. Margaret Mary (Alacoque) and the Poor." María worked as a nurse in the hospital. Compassion and care for the physical and spiritual well-being of the sick were the primary concerns. María worked tirelessly.

***María worked as a nurse in the hospital. Compassion and
care for the physical and spiritual well-being of the sick
were the primary concerns.***

Sister María was soon named head of the quickly-growing community of sisters. She taught the community, mostly by her example, the importance of living the Gospel's spirit of poverty. This included living a life of humility and exhibiting joy and a loving demeanor each day to each person they encountered.

At times, Mother María and others in the community would take to the streets begging in order to collect money for the hospital. The sisters also worked in parishes to assist the priests and to serve as catechists.

From 1911 until 1936, the Catholic Church in Mexico underwent severe persecution. Mother María put her own life at risk to help the clergy of Guadalajara, and even the archbishop, go into hiding in the community's hospital. The humble and generous treatment she extended even to their persecutors when they needed food or medical care did not go unnoticed. It was not long before they, too, began defending the hospital run by the sisters.

During her lifetime, 11 foundations were established in Mexico. Today, the religious community has 22 foundations and is active in Mexico, Peru, Iceland, Greece and Italy.

Mother María died on June 24, 1963, at the age of 85. Her feast day is June 24.



Ten Commandments for Welcoming Visitors at Mass



Welcoming newcomers to your parish is not just the job of the pastoral staff, ushers, ministers of hospitality or greeters. It is everyone's responsibility. Here are ten things you can do to provide better hospitality in your parish.

1. Cultivate the virtue of hospitality at Mass.

Many Mass attendees tend to gather into little cliques and ignore those who are not members of their particular clique. They are not really inhospitable, just heedless of the need for hospitality. Make hospitality a new habit when you go to Mass.

2. Come early, leave late.

Instead of rushing to Mass to be there on time, and then rushing out at its conclusion, make time to come a little early and linger just a bit later. Make room **in your busy life to greet and spend time with others at Mass.**

3. Go in peace to greet someone!

Seek out someone you've not met before. Shake their hand, introduce yourself, and take a few moments to welcome them to your parish home, God's house.

4. Welcome everyone.

Not only do visitors need your warm welcome, regular Mass attendees also need a friendly greeting. Develop a good handshake and be enthusiastic about your parish. You are greeting others in the name of Christ.

5. Help newcomers connect.

While you are getting to know visitors, introduce them to other parishioners as the opportunity presents itself. Feel free to invite visitors to sit next to you.

6. Say goodbye with genuine warmth.

After Mass, bid farewell to visitors, inviting them to return next week. Introduce them to the pastor if the opportunity arises.

7. Avoid parish business.

Avoid conducting parish business with others immediately before or after Mass. Focus on visitors.

8. Give visitors information about the parish.

Ensure that a visitor has a bulletin and other information about the parish before they leave. If there is a social gathering after Mass, invite them.

9. Be part of a greeting ministry team

Parishes are always in need of greeters to serve regularly, and provide ongoing formation to new greeters. Help out, be a greeter. If your parish doesn't have greeters, now is a good time to start!

10. Greet those who already minister in the area of hospitality.

It isn't necessary to neglect the people who are already ministers of hospitality in order to make visitors feel at home. A simple wave and a smile go a long way.

Hospitality at Mass: *A Key to Good Stewardship*

For many individuals and families alike, summer means travel. And summer travel may mean new visitors to our parish for weekend liturgies. Providing hospitality to strangers is a hallmark of Christian stewardship.

In the Gospel of Matthew good stewards were commended for their hospitality: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:35). Saint Benedict directed his followers to receive guests and travelers as if they were Christ. Extending hospitality is especially important when it comes to welcoming visitors who may be attending Mass at our parish for the first time.

There is a lot of anecdotal evidence suggesting that the ability of a first-time visitor to have a meaningful experience of Christ in the liturgy is directly impacted by the warmth of the welcome extended by the local worshipping community. When people say hello, the worship experience is enhanced. A warm welcome is part of evangelization, work necessary in a church's mission to help people discover or renew their faith in Christ.

How do we treat the unknown person who walks by us in church, or who sits next to us at Mass? Do we take the initiative to greet them, smile, extend a warm handshake?

Remember, we are Christ's ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20). Our actions and reactions toward visitors at Mass communicate who we are and who we represent. Let us take time to welcome visitors to our parish this summer. Welcoming gestures, however small, will not only have a positive impact on visitors, they will make us more hospitable ambassadors of Christ.



A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Seventh Sunday of Easter Weekend of June 1/2, 2019

In today's Gospel we go back to the time of the Last Supper where we hear the conclusion of Jesus' prayer before he goes to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus reveals a worldview in this prayer, a worldview that focuses on disciples both present to him at that moment and to follow after him in the future. It is a worldview that emphasizes unity among all Christians, a loving communion of followers of Christ who together, he prays, will become a visible sign of God's active presence in the world. We rejoice that Christ has risen, remains with us and continues to pray for unity among us. How might we respond to Jesus' prayer for unity? How can we work for unity among all followers of Jesus Christ?

Pentecost Sunday Weekend of June 8/9, 2019

In today's first reading we encounter the Holy Spirit who at Pentecost came rushing in over Jesus' followers like a powerful wind. It must have been a frightening experience for them. But their great acts of prophetic witness began when the Spirit drew them out of their "comfort zones." Jesus said the Holy Spirit, like the wind, blows where it wills; into the lives of good stewards, empowering them to perform wondrous acts of healing, reconciliation and evangelization; encouraging them to proclaim the Gospel with boldness and confidence. All of that is a little beyond the comfort zone where most of us live our lives. This week, reflect on how the Holy Spirit may be calling you out of your personal comfort zone.

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity Weekend of June 15/16, 2019

In today's Gospel Jesus talks about life with his Father and the Spirit. He tells his disciples that what belongs to the Father belongs to him, and that the Spirit will take from what is his and give it to them. Jesus helps us understand

that the relationship between Father, Son and Spirit is one of perfect sharing and loving generosity. This shared life is the foundation for what we now understand as part of living life in the Trinity. The abundant generosity of those who are good stewards of the gifts entrusted to them give us a glimpse into the love of the Triune God. Does the extent of our generosity give others a glimpse of God's life within us?

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ Weekend of June 22/23, 2019

From the rich Eucharistic themes to be drawn from today's second reading, one stewardship theme stands out: The Eucharist is Christ's gift to us. Good stewards are grateful for this gift and realize that no matter their station in life, they are welcome to come to the table and receive the body and blood of Christ. If Jesus could break bread with his betrayer, Judas, his denier, Peter, and the other ten who deserted him, then he will welcome us. Do we truly appreciate what a tremendous gift it is to approach the Lord's table? Do we realize that the Holy Spirit means to transform us by the gift of Christ's body and blood?

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Weekend of June 29/30, 2019

Today's Gospel reveals to us the beginning of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. We will journey with Jesus for many Sundays to come, and along the way he will teach us about the demands of discipleship. His instructions may seem harsh and unreasonable to our ears. His response to legitimate requests to postpone the journey reminds us that there are always justifiable excuses to defer the journey or put off the responsibilities of discipleship. Other important matters compete for our attention. Some of us must make heart-wrenching choices, but there is urgency about Jesus' mission to bring forth God's kingdom. His demand is that we proclaim the Kingdom of God now. Is this our first priority, or do we have other priorities?



INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
57th Annual ICSC Conference

October 6-9 | Sheraton Grand Hotel | Chicago, Illinois

Stewards of the Church



NETWORK

The ICSC annual conference is widely recognized as the most valuable opportunity for those involved in Christian stewardship to connect with others who share their commitment to teaching stewardship as a way of life. Many say meeting others with similar experiences is the main reason they attend the ICSC conference!



LEARN

The ICSC annual conference is filled with sessions and forums that provide practical information you can take home and use immediately. You will be exposed not only to topics that offer fundamentals but also new ideas, innovations and strategies!



GROW

The ICSC annual conference is a great opportunity to get away from your busy schedule to pray, reflect on your own life of faith, listen to inspiring reflections and participate in invigorating liturgies!



The newly renovated Sheraton Grand Chicago Hotel will offer a well-appointed and comfortable experience for the 57th ICSC conference. This convention hotel is set in the heart of the downtown district, along the Chicago Riverwalk near Navy Pier and the Magnificent Mile. ICSC has reserved intuitively designed rooms which boast city, river and lake views. ICSC conference registrants may book their rooms through the ICSC conference planner, Plaza Meetings. For questions about the hotel email Plaza Meetings directly at debbie@plazameetings.com.

REGISTER TODAY!

ICSC Easter Member Discount **\$529** through June 7

visit www.catholicstewardship.com

Conference Schedule

Sunday, October 6, 2019

8:00 am – 8:00 pm. Registration Desk Open
8:00 pm – 9:00 pm Conference Opening Prayer –
Lucernarium (“Liturgy of Light”)

Monday, October 7, 2019

7:30 am – 8:45 am. Breakfast and Opening Plenary Session
9:00 am – 11:30 am. Morning Conference Sessions
11:30 am – 1:00 pm. Mid-day Break
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Early Afternoon Conference Sessions
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Early Afternoon Meet and Greet
with Exhibitors
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Mid-Afternoon Conference Sessions
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm Concelebrated Liturgy
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm Reception with Exhibitors

Tuesday, October 8, 2019

7:30 am – 8:30 am. Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors
8:30 am – 11:00 am. Morning Conference Sessions
11:00 am – 1:00 pm. Mid-day Break
1:00 pm – 3:30 pm Afternoon Conference Sessions
4:30 pm – 5:45 pm Concelebrated Liturgy
5:45 pm – 7:00 pm Reception with Exhibitors
7:30 pm – 9:30 pm ICSC Strategic Partners Gala Dinner

Wednesday, October 9, 2019

7:30 am – 8:30 am. Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors
9:00 am – 10:00 am. Closing Plenary Session
10:15 am – 11:15 am. Closing Concelebrated Liturgy



We couldn't agree more...

“Attending the ICSC conference for the first time opened my heart and inspired me to become more deeply engaged in stewardship, discipleship and evangelization. Attending the ICSC stewardship conference for the second time opened my eyes to the challenges involved in implementing stewardship in our parishes, and I gained practical solutions that I have already put into practice!”

~Melissa, Honolulu, Hawaii



Who Should Attend the ICSC Conference?

The 57th annual ICSC conference will provide resources, materials, inspiration, and proven ideas for anyone seeking to live as a missionary disciple by embracing Christian stewardship. We regularly have in attendance bishops, priests and deacons. The conference also has much to offer diocesan staff involved in stewardship formation, development and foundation professionals; as well as parish business managers, youth ministers, Catholic advancement personnel and school administrators, and parish lay leaders. No matter your title, role or responsibility, the ICSC conference has something to strengthen your journey of faith!



INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
57th Annual ICSC Conference
October 6-9 | Sheraton Grand Hotel | Chicago, Illinois

Opportunity for Catholic School Advancement Professionals!



ICSC is pleased to once again provide a Catholic School Advancement track at the 2019 annual conference. This track is for anyone with responsibility for Catholic school development.

With over 80 sessions available for those serving in a parish, school, diocese, foundation or ministry, the opportunities for networking with colleagues are plentiful. The amazing liturgies are certain to inspire and send us forth. There is truly something for everyone at this conference!

Topic areas you will not want to miss in the 57th Annual ICSC Conference specifically for Catholic School Advancement include...

- How Stewardship enhances the mission of Catholic school development
- Using special events to achieve sustainable funding growth
- Enhancing alumni engagement and support
- Successful school marketing strategies
- Growing your annual appeal
- Attracting and sustaining major gifts for your school

And much more!



Call 800-352-3452 or visit our website and **REGISTER TODAY [HERE](#)**

INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC
STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

ICSC@catholicstewardship.org
(800) 352-3452

www.catholicstewardship.com