



September, 2019

Dear Fellow Stewards,

The year 1962 divided history. For the first time, a NASA astronaut orbited the earth, three times. On October 11, Saint John XXIII convened the Second Vatican Council, unleashing a renewed Church that would change the world. Later that month, representatives from seven dioceses met in Chicago, planting primordial seeds of the International Catholic Stewardship Council.

Today, 57 years later, the ICSC board of directors has afforded me the privilege of welcoming you back to this great center of Catholic faith and tradition where stewards from parishes, dioceses and other Catholic organizations, at last count, hail from nearly 200 dioceses around the world. We are honored to welcome a member of the college of bishops whose leadership emulates the spiritual dynamism of Vatican II, a Catholic woman whose leadership reveals the global reach of God's loving presence and a leader at NASA, an astronaut who envisaged the blue veil of Our Blessed Mother over the earth as he orbited our planet 800 times. Archbishop Paul Coakley, Dr. Carolyn Woo and Dr. Thomas Jones give compelling witness to the stewardship of the Church, humanity and its history.

On behalf of our board of directors, I thank you for using the valuable gift of your time to pray and reflect on Christian stewardship in the Catholic tradition with us. I also want to thank those who paved the way with their prayers, preparation, industry and sponsorship. A special note of thanks goes to His Eminence, Cardinal Blase Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago, who along with his staff, has always welcomed the ICSC family. I wish to thank our presenters as well, who gifted their own time and talents to deliver to us interesting, insightful, and substantive topics.

The conference will offer us a special moment of grace. Let us take all we can from this gathering of good stewards so that, strengthened by our fellowship, inspired by our presenters, and nourished by the Eucharist, we may breathe in the life of the Holy Spirit, and as missionary disciples and stewards of our Church, divide history once again.

Your brother in Christ,

Michael Murphy  
Executive Director

INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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