



INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP

September 2019 • e-Bulletin

A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER for September

Lord Jesus Christ,

As we begin to shift from summer schedules to autumn demands, teach us to recognize you, and help us follow you amidst our busy life.

Open the Scriptures to us that we may know you, see you, hear you – in the voices of friends and family, in the ministries of our parish, in the proclamation of the Word, and in the Breaking of the Bread.

Teach us to be good stewards, that we may use your gifts wisely and care for all those you place in our path.

Encourage us, when we are overwhelmed. Strengthen us, when we are frightened. Challenge our complacency.

Help us make this new season a time of spiritual renewal, hope, and action to proclaim the Gospel in our words and in our deeds.

For the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.



Gathering Together in Christ: The Power of Christian Fellowship

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

Have you ever contemplated the blessing of being part of a global Church? As we approach the ICSC international conference in Chicago next month, I am excited and grateful for the opportunity to gather with other friends and stewards in Christ from all over the world. Yes, we attend to hear inspiring speakers and capture the latest best stewardship practices to take back to our diocese or parish. But unlike those attending conferences from the secular world, we have the bond of our identity in Christ and our baptism which draws us into a deeper relationship. No matter how we identify “the ends of the earth” in the 21st century, when we gather in Chicago in October of this year, we will come face to face with our brothers and sisters in Christ.



The value of the ICSC conference is beautiful on so many levels but none more important than bringing the Body of Christ together from around the world.

The words of Saint Paul in his letter to the Ephesians rings so true (2:19):

So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the holy ones and members of the household of God.

This is true not only in parish life but when we encounter each other at the ICSC conference. I believe the Holy Spirit is present in the vibrant worship, excellent presenters and is very uniquely connecting participants in a way more meaningful than networking. Yes, we exchange business cards, great ideas and practices but we also share hopes and dreams for our ministries, parishes, dioceses and Church.

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Through the wonder of technology, we are able to connect immediately when necessary. Our fellowship continues throughout the year until we meet again at next year's conference. For me, it is one of the most impactful aspects of attending the ICSC conference.



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In the end, the value of the ICSC conference is beautiful on so many levels but none more important than bringing the Body of Christ together from around the world. Somehow participants who need to find each other connect. If we look to the beginning of our Church, it was being stewarded through a powerful faith and the building up of relationships in Christ Jesus. The early Christians supported each other's ministries and accompanied each other on their faith journey. The fact that these relationships can exist on a global level in our time is pure gift. Join us at the 2019 ICSC conference and be inspired by Christ's presence all around you.

STEWARDSHIP SAINT *for September*

Blessed Antoine Frederic Ozanam



During the 1997 World Youth Day celebrations in Paris, Saint John Paul II beatified Antoine Frederic Ozanam in Notre Dame Cathedral and proclaimed him to be a model for all Catholic laity. "No better model could be given to the youth of the world than this young man ... 'Show us your works!'"

Blessed Antoine Frédéric Ozanam was a French Catholic scholar and defender of the Catholic faith at a time when it underwent severe challenges in early 19th century France. He also founded the Catholic association of laity dedicated to serving the poor, which came to be known as the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Frederic was born in Milan, Italy, in 1813, the fifth of 14 children. Showing academic promise at an early age, his parents encouraged him to study. He was interested in law, languages and philosophy, and in 1831 went to the renowned Parisian university, the Sorbonne, to study law. It was here that he encountered hostility to Catholicism. He published a short work responding to this hostility that attracted the attention of French Catholic writers and politicians.

Frederic's writings emphasized the important social contributions of the Church, but a conversation with another student disturbed him: "Frederic, I accept that the Church may have done things for people in the past but what are you doing now? Show us your works!" Those words stung the young Frederic so much that he decided to work with the poor. In 1833, with seven university companions, he laid the foundations of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul honoring the great saint who in another time had also ministered to the poor of the city of Paris. He was 20 years old.

Frederic earned a doctor of laws in 1836 and a doctorate in letters in 1839. He became a professor at the university and, in time, chair of foreign languages. His lectures at the Sorbonne were among the most popular as students flocked to hear this young, vibrant speaker.

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In 1841 Frederic married, had one daughter, and is said to have embraced a youthful enthusiasm for his marriage and his parenting. Each month he would observe the anniversary of his wedding with a thoughtfully chosen gift, however small. Frederic brought that same domestic love and attention to the growing Society which spread throughout France and other countries within a relatively short time.

He gained a reputation as the leading historical and literary critic in the "new" Catholic movement in France, and his popular writings in the late 1840s won him a number of French writing awards. He was hailed as a brilliant promoter of the Catholic faith. Frederic died of tuberculosis at age 40 on September 8, 1853. Today the Society numbers nearly a million members in 142 countries. Frederic's feast day is September 9.



*"The Church needs you,
your enthusiasm,
your creativity and
your joy."*

-Pope Francis, World Youth Day
2019, Panama City, Panama

Preparing Young Adults for Missionary Discipleship in Parishes

Maria, a young adult from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, was one of the more than two million people who attended the 2019 World Youth Day in Panama. Maria believed the most powerful part of the event was when the Holy Father "invited us, the young people, to take up our missionary call now, and not in the future, following the example of Mary who said, 'Let it be done to me according to your word.' ...With Mary, he told us to continue to say 'yes' to the dream that God sowed in us."

Maria, like so many young people who attended, heard these encouraging words from Pope Francis and came back on fire with excitement to put the words into action. How do we as leaders in our parishes and dioceses equip our youth and young adults to not only hear, but respond to the Holy Father's call?

At this year's 57th annual ICSC conference, sessions will be offered that explore the ways some of our parishes are equipping leaders and the youth to live out this call by identifying their God-given talents and gifts. When people grow as good stewards of their gifts and talents their lives and leadership potential are dramatically impacted, and through them, the people they touch in relationships, service, and community.

We hope to see you in Chicago on October 6!

For Stewardship Leaders: Keeping the Vision Alive

Leisa Anslinger, Associate Department Director for Pastoral Life, Archdiocese of Cincinnati

As stewardship leaders, we must keep the vision of stewardship in people's hearts and minds. We discern what to communicate, when and how, including invitations to deepen commitment to Christ and to living and growing as stewards. Stewardship operates on two levels: individual and communal. While we as leaders focus much of our attention on communicating the stewardship message to parishioners on a very personal level, it is also necessary to be attentive to the ways in which the parish is living and growing as a faith community of grateful disciples.

Stewardship is ultimately about growing in gratitude and sharing our many blessings with others. The words in the United States bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship is compelling: "Stewardship is an expression of discipleship, with the power to change how we understand and live out our lives." While stewardship formation encourages people to take stock of the ways in

which they are living as disciples and stewarding their many gifts and blessings, we must also be attentive to how well the parish is stewarding resources. This personal and communal journey of discipleship lived out as stewards has the potential to transform hearts and minds, and to make lasting change in the life of the parish, for the better.

When referring to "the parish," it is important to recognize that the people are the parish! "The parish" often denotes the direction, strategies and practices that are incorporated into parish life, guided by parish leaders. "The parish" also refers to the entire faith community, and recognizes the tremendous impact this community has on the way in which each person lives and grows in faith.

For many of us, autumn is a time of renewal in mission, in which we look more closely at our current practices and consider new initiatives in order to lead our community to more faithfully live as disciples and



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grow as good stewards. This is why our annual conference is so important for many of us. It is a time to learn from one another, hear "what is working" for others, and be renewed in our commitment to stewardship leadership. What "is working" in your parish or diocesan stewardship process? What needs to change in order to more fully keep the vision of stewardship alive?

INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

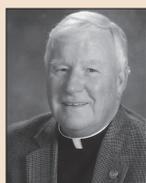
57th Annual ICSC Conference

October 6-9, 2019 | Sheraton Grand Hotel | Chicago, Illinois

Missionary disciples understand that stewardship is a way of life.

Stewardship helps missionary disciples recognize that both the ordinary experiences of daily living and the most profound moments of their lives are gifts from God to be cherished and shared with others. And that is what stewardship and evangelization are about, sharing our lives and our gifts with others, especially sharing the gift of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by our words and our deeds.

Meet these dynamic stewardship presenters and listen to their experience of parish ministry, their lives of faith and their encounters with grace.



**Stewardship:
A Life-Giving Spirituality**
Rev. Joe Creedon
Pastor Emeritus
Christ the King Parish
Kingston, Rhode Island



**Forming Stewards in the Parish:
The Spiritual and the Practical**
Rev. John J. Piderit, SJ
*Vicar for Administration/
Moderator of the Curia*



**In All Seasons: The Liturgical Year as
a Stewardship Formation Framework**
Leisa Anslinger
*Associate Department Director
for Pastoral Life*
Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Ohio



Florian Romero
Director of Stewardship
Archdiocese of San Francisco,
California



**Stepping into Stewardship One
Disciple at a Time**
Schuyler Kleinpeter
*Stewardship and
Advancement Director*
St. Pius X Catholic Church
Lafayette, Louisiana



**Jesus on Money: Six Lessons
We Have Learned in Parish Life**
Rev. Michael White
Pastor



Tom Corcoran
Associate to the Pastor
Church of the Nativity/Rebuilt Parish
Timonium, Maryland

And that's just the beginning ... ICSC has an amazing lineup of diocesan leaders, Catholic foundation executives, school advancement professionals and experienced church professionals and ministerial visionaries at the ICSC 57th annual conference, making it the event to receive hands-on learning and prophetic insights. Go to the ICSC website at www.catholicstewardship.com for more ICSC conference news in the coming weeks.



REGISTER NOW to join the ICSC family in Chicago, October 6 - 9, 2019

September: A Recommitment to Stewardship

Summer's end brings with it nostalgia for carefree days, long nights, lazy weekend afternoons, reunions with families, and summer road trips.

But in our parishes, autumn brings a burst of new life that makes September feel almost like spring.

Why? For the Christian steward, fall brings a renewed sense of commitment. Literally, many of us make our commitment of time and resources to our parish during September or soon after. Stewardship and ministry fairs bring a sense of excitement to parish weekends, witness talks remind us of the good work to be done, renewed calls for sign-ups for Eucharistic Adoration are issued, and kids are



Some things which will draw you closer to your faith community during September:

- Visit, or better yet help with, the ministry fair. Spend time with people you may not have seen due to summer travels, and “meet and greet” any newcomers you spot.

- Find out what adult faith formation classes or presentations are offered for the fall, and commit to at least one.

If you found yourself away from your parish this summer – either through neglect or through travel and visits to other parishes – now is the time to get reacquainted.

everywhere – in our Catholic schools and in our faith formation programs – filling us with hope and enthusiasm for our young Church.

This is the time when we reexamine and reconfirm our stewardship. If you found yourself away from your parish this summer – either through neglect or through travel and visits to other parishes – now is the time to get reacquainted. Our parish is our primary faith community, where we built relationships based on our shared values and sacramental life, and September is a wonderful way to come “home” to that community.

- Make sure you go to your parish school’s “Back to School” night if you have kids enrolled, or visit your child’s faith formation class and introduce yourself to the teacher.
- Consider a new ministry this year. Think of something that will reinvigorate you, provide the greatest service, bring out your best talents, and help you to meet more of your fellow parishioners.
- Maybe you’ve gotten a new pastor or associate pastor over the summer. Now’s the time to introduce yourself and issue a dinner invitation.



- Take inventory of your financial giving. Did you sometimes neglect the parish offertory during the summer months? Find out if your parish has online giving, or automatic withdrawal, so that your year-round stewardship helps provide the parish with a stable income.
- Make Sunday Mass your top weekend priority, ahead of sports, school activities, or other temptations.



A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time Weekend of August 31/September 1, 2019

In today's Gospel, Jesus challenged the social structure of the Pharisees and teaches his hosts and their guests some profound lessons in humility. Pharisees maintained deep social divisions between who they considered "holy" and "unholy," rich and poor, honored and despised. They didn't invite someone to a banquet or dinner who couldn't reciprocate. And the lowly, the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind had no capacity to reciprocate.

Good stewards realize that if they embrace a humility that allows them to be generous to those who cannot repay them, they give evidence of having the kind of heart that will enjoy the Lord's intimate friendship. This week let's reflect on our attitude towards those who cannot repay our generosity. What is the extent of our hospitality toward others? Are we generous with those who cannot repay us?

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Weekend of September 7/8, 2019

At the conclusion of today's Gospel, we hear Jesus tell a "great crowd" that "...anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple." A few of Jesus' immediate disciples, such as Peter, John and James, did just that: They responded to Jesus' call, renouncing everything to follow him. How do modern disciples of Jesus respond when confronted with this apparently harsh command of Jesus? Surely the renunciation of possessions need not mean literally giving all one's possessions away, does it? Questions we might ponder this week though: Do our possessions keep us from encountering Christ at Mass? Do they distract us from our parish family? Do our possessions interfere with our relationships? Do they make us insensitive to those less fortunate?

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Weekend of September 14/15, 2019

Among the primary themes in today's Gospel when we hear Jesus' well-known parable of the Prodigal Son is forgiveness and the need to repent. But from a stewardship point of view what is also interesting is one of the secondary themes: the failure to use responsibly the gifts that have been so generously bestowed. The youngest son who demanded his inheritance

and left home broke no laws or religious commandments. His wrongdoing was that he wasted his inherited wealth, the abundant gifts given to him. His sin was in his extravagant living; squandering his gifts in pursuit of selfish pleasures. Good stewards acknowledge that everything they have comes from God, and they are required to cultivate these gifts responsibly. What are our God-given gifts? Do we use them responsibly? Do we exercise good stewardship over them?

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Weekend of September 21/22, 2019

In Jesus' parable of the Unjust Steward, we encounter a financial manager who has wasted his master's wealth and faces dismissal from his position. To overcome the crisis confronting him, the steward reduces some very considerable debts owed by poor neighbors to his master in order to help them out. Though the steward has sinned against God and his master by squandering what belongs to someone else, both the prudent way in which he goes about resolving the crisis coupled with relieving people who are in need can be seen as a way to better steward the gifts entrusted to us by God. Although good stewards today acknowledge that they may never use their God-given gifts in a way that completely conforms to the demands of the Gospel, a commitment to using their gifts with prudence and for the purpose of helping their neighbors wins God's favor.

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Weekend of September 28/29, 2019

In today's Gospel Jesus offers a warning about living selfishly in his parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus. The Rich Man holds sumptuous feasts and dresses in fine clothes. But despite his affluence he does nothing to relieve the painful hunger and debilitating condition of his neighbor Lazarus. He neglects to love his neighbor as he loves himself and is sent to hell for his lifestyle and desire for self-gratification. The Rich Man represents those who spend their money on their own personal pleasures with no regard for sharing their material possessions with the poor and needy in their own neighborhood. Good stewards realize the practical implications of not only loving God, but loving their neighbor as they would love themselves. Who are the less fortunate in our neighborhood? Do we share a portion of our own blessings with them?