

# INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP

September 2021 • e-Bulletin

## A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER for September

Heavenly Father,  
Even during this time of pandemic,  
September is a month that offers hope  
for things to come:  
our daily life has a new rhythm,  
there are new beginnings  
and a new energy.

In this month of accelerating activities,  
keep us mindful that we live for Christ  
and not for ourselves, and  
that to be good stewards of  
his Gospel should be our goal  
each and every day.

In this month of transition  
help us find a deeper spiritual  
balance in our lives  
that takes time for you and  
listens to the promptings of your Spirit.

We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever.  
Amen.

## A Transforming and Safe Opportunity at the 59th Annual ICSC Conference

This week, ICSC presenters are polishing their presentations for September's stewardship conference. Topics such as *Evangelizing through COVID-19*, *Engaging the Youth for the Future of Our Church* and *New Stewardship Lessons We've Learned During the Pandemic*, are compelling reminders of our need to minister to the Catholic faithful and beyond even in these times of uncertainty.

As conference presenters prayerfully work through their PowerPoints, it is not hard to imagine the Holy Spirit at work as well, engaging, mentoring and inspiring them just as it has done throughout the history of the Church; even during times of pandemic. The voices of these dedicated presenters, along with many others, at Mass, in meetings, while networking and in renewing friendships, will certainly give testimony that Christ is at the center of it all.



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We now know how to live with COVID much more than we did 18 months ago. We know how to act with prudence to keep the virus from upending our lives of faith. The ICSC conference will give participants the opportunity to share their faith journeys and help each other as leaders discover the necessary tools to convey the stewardship message in an even more authentic way.

The first priority for the conference is certainly the safety and well-being of everyone in attendance and ICSC's recently updated "Well-Being Protocols" on the conference page of the ICSC website are

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meant to keep everyone safe. You can click [HERE](#) to see those protocols. Moreover, ICSC's wonderful partners at the Hyatt Regency Hotel have put into place some very impressive safety and well-being protocols of their own. All conference participants will be encouraged to be good stewards of each other and follow these protocols.



**The Most Reverend Gabriel Malzaire, Bishop of Roseau on the Caribbean island of Dominica, concluded his liturgy at the 2017 conference with remarks about transformation and triumph through the Holy Spirit.**

The Most Reverend Gabriel Malzaire, Bishop of Roseau on the Caribbean island of Dominica, presided at the closing Mass of the 2017 ICSC conference on the day his island was being devastated by Hurricane Maria. He concluded the liturgy with remarks about transformation and triumph through the Holy Spirit. He said he was grateful for the ICSC conference because it gave him the tools, resources and inspiration to return to his diocese and help the Catholic faithful rebuild their homes, renew their lives and to teach them how to become even better stewards of Christ Jesus. Indeed, that is the aim and the hope of this year's ICSC conference.

## STEWARDSHIP SAINT for September

### Saint Vincent de Paul



The feast day of Saint Vincent de Paul is September 27, the date of his passing in 1660. He was the founder of the Vincentians and the Sisters of Charity, and is the patron saint of all charitable organizations.

Born in 1581 to a peasant family in southwestern France, Vincent studied for the priesthood at a local Franciscan college and then at Toulouse University. He was ordained a priest at the age of nineteen.

Little is truly known of Vincent's early life in the priesthood except that he spent a year in Rome, perhaps studying. In 1612 he became a parish priest in a village just north of Paris and the following year became a tutor in the household of the wealthy and politically powerful Gondi family. He remained with the family for the next 12 years and spent some time as a parish priest where he attended to the needs of the sick and the poor in his parish. In 1617 he formed a group of women who ministered to the needs of these families. He established similar groups in other villages.

Around the year 1618 Vincent came to know Saint Francis de Sales, whose writings, especially the *Introduction to the Devout Life*, had a strong influence on him. That same year Vincent established a society of priests, sometimes referred to as "Vincentians," who with the financial support of Madame Gondi, would go from village to village on the Gondi estates to preach to the peasants and conduct missions. The mission work became so successful that with the approval of the archbishop of Paris and continued financial support of the Gondis, the group established a base in Paris and their community continued to grow along with their ministry.

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**Vincent's approach to a devout life of faith was to be simple, practical and to have confidence in God's love and mercy.**

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Meanwhile the women's groups started to multiply. In 1633 Vincent began offering formal religious formation for this new group, called the Daughters of Charity. A new order of women religious was born that ministered in hospitals, orphanages, prisons and many other places. The order was formally approved by the Church in 1668.

Vincent's approach to a devout life of faith was to be simple, practical and to have confidence in God's love and mercy. He would maintain: "When you leave your prayer to care for a sick person, you leave God for God. To care for a sick person is to pray."

At Vincent's funeral the presiding bishop said that he had "changed the face of the Church." He was canonized in 1737. In 1833, Blessed Antoine Frederic Ozanam would found the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. In 1885 Pope Leo XIII named St. Vincent de Paul universal patron of all works of charity.



RESTORE  
*our* JOY  
Psalm 51:14



# ICSC 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

*Join us in Orlando*

September 12-15, 2021  
Hyatt Regency Orlando

*The Dream of Elijah*  
Philippe de Champaigne  
oil on canvas, 1655  
Musée de Tessa, Le Mans, France

Don't miss this opportunity to learn  
newest strategies for evangelization and  
stewardship at YOUR parish!



**Stewardship is THE Answer: A  
Blueprint for Parishes After  
Covid-19**

**Leisa Anslinger**

*Director, Catholic Life and Faith  
Associate Director for Pastoral Life  
Archdiocese of Cincinnati*



**Growing Community through  
Livestream Technology**

**Michelle Fontana**

*Director, Marketing and Development  
St. Ignatius Martyr Church  
Austin, TX*



**Growing Giving through Covid-19**

**Reverend Michael White**

*Pastor, Church of the Nativity  
Timonium, MD*



**Engaging Our Youth for the  
Future of Our Church**

**Carlos Bernard, Jr.**

*Director of Youth Ministry  
Diocese of Orlando*

Click  
HERE to  
register

REGISTER NOW!

**\$699**

*Let's Share our Common  
Reality and Vision for the  
Future of our Church!*

## STEWARDSHIP EXPRESSIONS

### September Observances

**National Hispanic Heritage Month** is observed in the U.S. from September 15 through October 15. This month honors the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. Begun as a weekly celebration in 1968, the tribute was extended to a month by President Ronald Reagan in 1988. Persons of Hispanic origin make up over 35% of the U.S. Catholic Church, and a higher percentage of youthful Catholics.

**National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month** reminds us that childhood obesity is now a national crisis, with nearly one in every three of America's children being overweight or obese. Not only does excess weight adversely affect our children's well-being, but its associated health risks also impose great costs on families, the health care system, and the economy. Check out "Let's Move" to learn more about how to help children become healthier and stay active.

**September 11 – National Grandparents Day** was proclaimed by U.S. President Jimmy Carter as the first Sunday after Labor Day. This day was originally proposed by a West Virginia housewife who hoped it would inspire people to visit those who were lonely in nursing homes, and encourage grandchildren to learn from the wisdom of their grandparents.

## Be a Good Steward of Your Faith this Autumn

There's something wonderfully renewing about autumn, even in this time of uncertainty when we are encouraged to be more cautious about our health and interactions. Still, it's all about new beginnings. It is a time to be mindful of God's call for spiritual renewal.

We remember those feelings of starting again even if it's been years since we walked through the school house door, and even if we don't have our own children heading off to the classroom this fall. We still get that heady feeling of new possibilities in the crisp autumn air. This is the perfect time to bring a sense of spiritual renewal to your life and to your family – the domestic church.



Pray with your children as you tuck them in, making the prayer personal and about the day's events.

Autumn can truly bring out a new resolve to improve our lives as summer's freedom gives way to the structure of fall. For adults, faith formation gatherings and prayer groups, even by "zoom," are just forming in parishes. Check out the opportunities. With summer ending, many organizations are gearing up for new volunteers. Contact your local Catholic Charities or Habitat for Humanity to see how you might help out.

Think of the autumn season as a way to discover a new rhythm for your prayer life. If new activities can be scheduled into your daily life, start scheduling in more quality time for prayer. Schedule family time for a short prayer. Say a blessing at breakfast, or a brief morning offering. Try to bring a more regular prayer schedule to your home. Pray with your children as you tuck them in, making the prayer personal and about the day's events.

Make a resolve this fall in the midst of the constantly evolving changes in our lives, to bring Christ more prominently into your family's daily routine. Make the stewardship of your faith and family a commitment as autumn brings a sense of renewal.





## A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

### **Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Weekend of September 4/5, 2021**

St. James teaches that those who are perceived to be poor in the eyes of society are the ones who have been chosen to inherit the Kingdom of God. Indeed, we are saved because of our poverty and redeemed out of our need, not because of our material wealth or achievements that the world finds praiseworthy. St. James also suggests that we are stewards of others, especially the poor and it is how we respond to the poor and needy that will define our relationship with the Lord. Can you identify the poverty, whether spiritual or material, that is in your own life? How can that “poverty” be redeemed? As stewards of others, how do we respond to the poverty that exists right in our own parish?

### **Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Weekend of September 11/12, 2021**

St. James asks what our love for Jesus Christ can possibly mean if it does not result in action on behalf of, and to benefit, our neighbor. He suggests that faith in Jesus Christ is demonstrated most profoundly in our care for the needy, the suffering, and the underprivileged. Stewardship includes proclaiming the Good News by putting our faith into action on behalf of others. In what ways have we been willing to make sacrifices and renunciations for the sake of Jesus Christ and our neighbor?

### **Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Weekend of September 18/19, 2021**

In today’s Gospel, we learn that the disciples of Jesus had been discussing among themselves who was the greatest. Jesus is about to turn their idea as well as our society’s idea of “greatness” upside down. He embraces a child and tries to help the Twelve understand that to be great is to be focused on something other than themselves. Jesus teaches that true “greatness” lies in being a good steward of those who are not great: welcoming one who is not viewed as great by our society’s standards, like the child, the innocent, the vulnerable, the suffering, those who are outside our comfortable circle of family, friends, companions and colleagues, those who need a welcome. Jesus redefines our notion of greatness. How do we define greatness? Is our notion of greatness consistent with the teachings of Jesus Christ?

### **Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Weekend of September 25/26, 2021**

St. James warns us about accepting the standards of the world and assuming that what is normative in society needs no countercultural challenge. The temptation to hoard riches and make sharp bargains at the expense of the powerless is pervasive because these things are generally done and look respectable enough. St. James points to God’s judgment on these attitudes and actions of amassing wealth and comfort at the expense of others. How might we be better stewards of the material blessings we have been given? How might we use our wealth with compassion toward others?