



INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP

June 2026 • e-Bulletin

A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER
for June

Dear Heavenly Father,

As we dedicate this month of June to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we ask you to grant to us compassionate hearts; hearts rich with your love, embraced by your compassion.

Grant us generous hearts: hearts that never count the cost; hearts that seek to serve and not be served.

Grant us hearts that love peace: hearts that promote truth and justice, transform hatred and anger, and seek unity and reconciliation.

Grant us hearts of a steward: hearts that are filled with gratitude, eager to share, and long to give back to you.

Grant us hearts filled with your Spirit: hearts open to conversion, filled with hope, and on fire with your Word.

We pray this in Jesus' name.

Amen



Welcome Our New Catholics Who Journeyed Through OCIA

We have new Catholics among us! Brought to us through the Easter Vigil, they bring a new ray of light into an anxious world: Every year thousands of people choose to join the Catholic Church. That's a big deal, and it's happening in a parish near you, in a process called OCIA, or the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults.



Let's be good stewards of these new Catholics. They will be bursting with enthusiasm to get involved.

We live in a cynical age, where many mistrust institutions and increasingly reject organized religion. OCIA is a powerful sign of the enduring strength of our shared faith. But, as the United States Catholic Bishops tell us, this ancient rite was reinstated following the Second Vatican Council because the initiation of new Catholics is not just a private affair for them, but a communal event for all of us: The process "was restored in the Church to highlight the fact that the newly baptized are received into a community of faith, which is challenged to realize that they too have become different because of this new life in the community."

We who embrace Christian stewardship should be mindful to welcome, greet, support and even be transformed by these Spirit-filled new Catholics. Our hospitality is a hallmark of our stewardship and our own evangelizing spirit. We are called into a "community of faith" with them. As OCIA progresses through the year, we begin to see the catechumens – those preparing for Baptism – being excused after the Liturgy of the Word to

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continue their preparation. How can we become more supportive of these aspiring Catholics? Notice who they are. Seek them out and welcome them. Introduce yourself.

Also, consider being a part of the OCIA journey. Often, a variety of speakers are needed – perhaps you could help with one or two classes if not the entire year. Each candidate needs a sponsor to take this journey of discovery and initiation with them. This is a gift to the candidates, but also a way to renew your own catechesis about our church. Then,



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attend the Easter Vigil, the preeminent liturgical event of our Catholic year, where new Catholics are baptized and receive the other sacraments of initiation. Often, those who have been previously baptized into other Christian faiths are received into the Church on this night as well. It is a night rich in symbolism, and despite the late hour, it is usually followed by a reception. It is a great way to celebrate this “new life in the community.”

Let us be good stewards of these new Catholics. They will be bursting with enthusiasm to get involved. Make a special effort to welcome them into your ministries and into the liturgical life of the parish.

STEWARDSHIP SAINT *for June*



Saint Anthony of Padua

Saint Anthony of Padua is one of the most beloved and admired saints in the Church. A Franciscan friar and a Doctor of the Church, he is considered one of the greatest preachers in the history of Christianity.

Anthony was born on the Feast of the Assumption in Lisbon, Portugal, in 1195 to a wealthy and educated family of the Portuguese nobility. He entered the Augustinian religious community at an early age where he devoted himself to the study of sacred scripture and Latin classics. He felt a call to

missionary work, however, and was given permission to join the Franciscan Order when he was 26 years old.

Anthony traveled tirelessly to preach what it meant to live according to the Gospel. He is believed to have made as many as 400 trips to towns in both northern Italy and southern France where he attracted people by the thousands. He was so popular a preacher that he often had to speak in public squares and marketplaces rather than churches.

So simple, yet compelling and inspiring was Anthony's teaching of the Catholic faith that he was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1946.

Anthony knew that preaching was not enough to help people understand how to follow Jesus Christ. He believed he had to give witness to the Gospel by the way he lived his personal life. So, he adopted and maintained a simple lifestyle consistent with what he believed the Gospel was calling him to. He became one of Francis of Assisi's favorite disciples and closest friend.

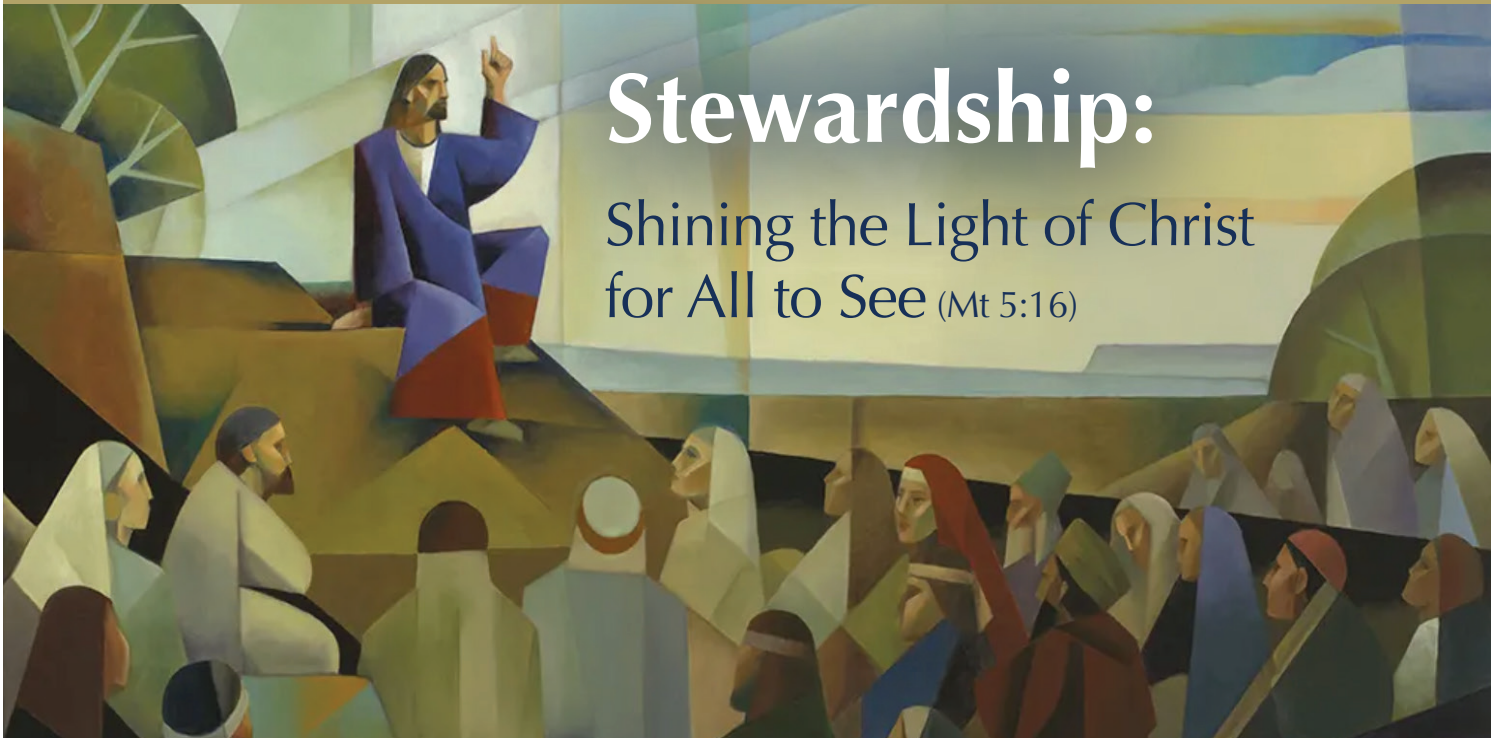
The last months of Anthony's life were lived in Padua, Italy, with preaching, hearing confessions, and assisting those in debt. He died there on June 13, 1231 at the age of 36 and was proclaimed a saint less than one year after his death. So simple, yet compelling and inspiring was Anthony's teaching of the Catholic faith that he was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1946.

Anthony is best known as the saint to whom one prays to find a lost article. When a novice took his Psalter without permission, Anthony prayed for the book's return. After the novice was visited by a ghost in a frightening nightmare, he rushed to give the book back to Anthony. Many people do not know, though, that St. Anthony is the patron of other causes. He is the patron saint of Brazil and Portugal, the poor, barren women, harvests and those who travel. His feast day is June 13.



Stewardship:

Shining the Light of Christ
for All to See (Mt 5:16)



September 20-23, 2026 | Hyatt Regency | New Orleans, Louisiana

ICSC 2026 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Sunday, September 20, 2026

- 8:00 am - 7:00 pm.....Registration/Information Desk Open
- 2:00 pm - 2:45 pmOrientation for First Time Attendees
- 3:00 pm - 5:30 pmConference begins with Mass of the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time and Opening Plenary Session
- 6:00 pm - 7:00 pmMeet the Exhibitors! Reception in Exhibit Hall

Monday, September 21, 2026

- 7:45 am - 9:15 am.....Breakfast and Plenary session
- 9:30 am - 12:00 pm....Morning conference sessions
- 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm ...Lunch with the Exhibitors in Exhibit Hall
- 2:00 pm - 3:00 pmAfternoon conference sessions
- 4:00 pm - 5:30 pmConcelebrated Liturgy

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

- 7:30 am - 8:30 am.....Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors in Exhibit Hall
- 8:30 am - 11:00 am....Morning conference sessions
- 11:30 am - 1:00 pm....Lunch with Exhibitors in Exhibit Hall
- 1:00 pm - 3:30 pmAfternoon conference sessions
- 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm.....Buses to St. Louis Cathedral
- 4:30 pm - 6:00 pmSt. Louis Cathedral Concelebrated Liturgy
- 6:00 pm – 6:45 pm.....Buses back to Hotel

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

- 8:30 am – 9:30 amMorning conference sessions
- 10:00 am – 11:00 am...Regional Meetings



Understanding Stewardship in a Complex World

In Saint John's Gospel, Jesus alludes to the lives of action his disciples will lead. He speaks to God about his followers: "I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one" (John 17:15). As a communion of Christian stewards, we live our Catholic faith in a challenging world.



As a communion of Christian stewards, we live our Catholic faith in a challenging world.

We see overwhelming problems and social ills, and we're bombarded from so many sides to take action. We are sometimes hit by "compassion fatigue," and often the issues are complex and our response unsure. However, we know that our Catholic faith is a communal faith, not meant to be lived in isolation. Our prayer and spirituality serve as a springboard to a life of Christian charity and service to others in some form or fashion.

There are a host of Catholic agencies that can help us better understand Catholic social teaching and how we apply that teaching to the complexity of world issues that surround us. Catholic Relief Services and Jesuit Refugee Services, to name just two, deal with international

Twenty Simple Stewardship Ideas for the Month of June

- Join or start a summer bible study group.
- Plan an outing with your family.
- Introduce yourself to a fellow parishioner with whom you are unfamiliar.
- Help a neighbor who is physically unable clean their yard.
- Invite someone to attend a weekend liturgy with you.
- Make a blood donation.
- Show genuine hospitality to visitors at your church.
- Don't text when you drive.
- Reduce your stress by getting outside and getting some exercise.
- Drive courteously.
- Make contact with a relative you haven't seen in a long time.
- Take time to pray each day.
- Treat your family or loved one to a day at the museum.
- Volunteer to participate in a community cleanup effort.
- Make a gift to your diocesan annual appeal.
- Plant flowers, shrubs or trees in a park or other location.
- Collect stuffed animals from friends and neighbors, write messages to tie or clip onto the animals and give them to a local police department to use in comforting children.
- Take a hike in the woods or visit a botanical garden to remind you of God's beauty in nature.
- Donate gently used clothing.

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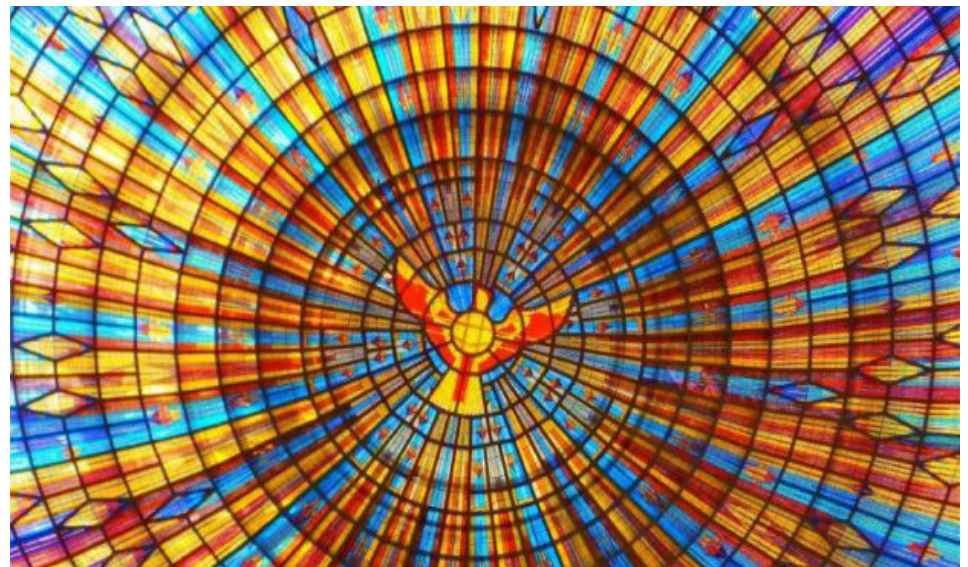
issues with a focus on faith, and Catholic Charities USA focuses on domestic issues. But are you aware that our United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) addresses many issues on the domestic and international front, through its educational resources as well as its activities? Many times, news reports focus on the Church's position on one or two issues. But in reality, the bishops are very active and outspoken on a wide range of social concerns, and by joining with them as people of faith we can create a united front that promotes positive change and enhances the common good.



Our prayer and spirituality serve as a springboard to a life of Christian charity and service to others in some form or fashion.

Through its teachings and programs, the USCCB addresses issues such as human trafficking, hunger among our nation's poor, employment, health care, the environment, education and capital punishment.

Visiting www.usccb.org can bring you up to date on a wide range of issues and show you how you can help address them by applying the teachings of our Catholic faith. Together as a communion of faith we can make a difference as we live in this world as Christ directed even in these disquieting times.



Leading Parishioners to Live as Disciples and Stewards Who Evangelize

by Leisa Anslinger

I have been greatly influenced by the wisdom of Bishop Sylvester Ryan, bishop *emeritus* of Monterey, California, who often reminds us that stewardship and evangelization are two sides of the same coin. That coin is discipleship. Forming people who are aware of their call to grow as disciples is a dynamic and life-giving process. It can also be challenging, as is the call itself. Jesus' way is one that places demands upon us, and yet, as the United States bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship notes, it is also a way of joy and a life filled with meaning. Let us briefly explore these three interrelated calls:

Discipleship: While we are drawn into Christ's Body through the waters of baptism, many of us grow into a living relationship with Christ over many years. Once that relationship has been ignited, or re-ignited, people's lives are shaped by their faith and desire to grow in love of God and all that we believe as Christians. This process of ongoing conversion takes place within the community of faith. As leaders, we have the opportunity to create an environment in which those who are already on the journey of discipleship recognize their call to reach out to others, building bridges to living faith.

Stewardship: We are Christian stewards because we are followers of Jesus Christ. As the bishops' pastoral indicates clearly, "Stewardship is an expression of discipleship with the power to change how we understand and live out our lives." Through our lives as stewards, we embrace Christ's self-giving, sacrificial way of life.

Evangelization: When we are in love, we cannot help but share that love with others. That is the essence of evangelization. We share the love of God as good stewards of our faith, and our sharing has the potential to draw others into a new or deeper relationship with God in Jesus Christ, as disciples and stewards.

Keeping this interrelationship in mind as we develop stewardship processes and initiatives helps us lead the people we serve to a joy-filled, meaningful way of life.



A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ Weekend of June 6/7, 2026

Among the compelling Eucharistic themes proclaimed in today's readings is the notion of "participation" as found in Saint Paul's letter to the Corinthians. Good stewards are part of a Eucharistic family: loving, welcoming, serving. An important part of living as a steward comes about in the many ways we can participate in the life of the Church. No matter how much time we have to give, no matter what our skills or interests, no matter what our level of commitment, there is a way to participate as a good steward to enrich our lives and the lives of others to build up the Body of Christ. How do you participate in the life of your parish?

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Weekend of June 13/14, 2026

In this weekend's Gospel reading from Saint Matthew, we hear of Jesus calling his disciples to enter into a partnership with him to advance his mission of healing, reconciling and proclaiming the Kingdom of God. Good stewards understand that this mission must begin with gratitude and trust and a willingness to share the wonderful hospitality of God to all human beings. A good reflection for this week: How do we understand our call to enter into a closer partnership with Jesus and to bring the Good News to neighbors and strangers alike?

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time Weekend of June 20/21, 2026

Jesus minces no words with his disciples: If we acknowledge Jesus publicly, Jesus will remember us before God, our Father. If we deny Jesus, he will forget us. It is very rare that a Christian will denounce Jesus publicly. But we can deny Jesus in more subtle ways. There are many people who conveniently forget all about Jesus Christ and the work of his Kingdom in their daily lives, in moments of weakness, spiritual immaturity or when times get tough. Good stewards strengthen their confession of Christ by praying and attending Mass regularly, examining their lives and going to confession frequently, and reminding themselves daily that Christ resides in them. Take a look at your own daily life. Do you acknowledge Christ before others? How often do you remind yourself that Jesus lives in you?

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Weekend of June 27/28, 2026

In today's gospel reading the Twelve hear Jesus speak these words: "Whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me." This is the first time Matthew mentions the word "cross" in his Gospel, and it is not in direct reference to Jesus' crucifixion but as a prerequisite to following him. Good stewards recognize that the call to discipleship requires them to "take up the cross" and align their goals in life and their fate with that of Jesus, that is, with suffering, opposition, resistance and even death. Reflect this week on the crosses you need to take up daily in order to comprehend the way of Jesus Christ.