

INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP

June 2017 • e-Bulletin

A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER
for June

Come Holy Spirit

Leader:

Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful.

All:

And enkindle in us
the fire of your love.

Leader:

Send forth your Spirit,
and they shall be recreated.

All:

And you will renew
the face of the earth.

Leader:

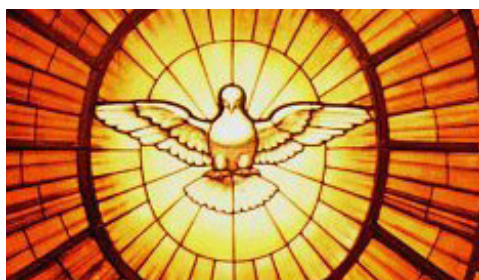
Let us pray.
O God,
on the first Pentecost
you instilled wisdom
into the hearts of those
who believed in you
by the power of the Holy Spirit.

All:

Under the inspiration of the same Spirit,
give us a taste of what is right and just
and a continuing sense of the Spirit's
joy-bringing presence and power.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Pentecost: The Holy Spirit Is with Us



For those immersed in the secular world, Easter is long over. The pastel bunnies, the chocolate eggs, the color-splashed jelly beans which appeared in the marketplace so temptingly just as Christians were beginning the fasting of Lent, have long been swept from the store shelves to be replaced in anticipation of the next marketable holiday. For the Christian steward, how backward this all seems. Yes, we believe that the Paschal mystery and the life-changing events of Easter are not over. They are not an end but a triumphal beginning, and they have altered us in a quite radical way.

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The mystery and miracle of Easter challenge us to live as different people, as people of the Resurrection. What does this mean? For those new Catholics who participated in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), a period of mystagogy helps to understand this mystery. Indeed, this ancient Greek word actually means “to lead through the mysteries.” During mystagogia, many parishes introduce their new members to service in a quite practical way. Here are the ministries of the parish; here are the charities we support; here are the needs of our community and our congregation. How do you choose to live out your faith in the Resurrection in a quite tangible and real way? How do your gifts fit into our needs? Essentially, however, this is a question that the Easter season calls forth in all Christian stewards not just our newest members.

We have lived through Lent and the Paschal mysteries, all the while trying to deepen a relationship with the person of Christ. It's as simple, yet as amazing and complex as that. The deeper the relationship grows, the more we become rooted in it, the more this relationship with Christ comes to dominate our lives. We no longer compartmentalize Jesus, we hold him at our center. And the mysteries lead us to the fundamental question at the heart of all Christian stewardship, the question that Easter compels us to ask: How do I steward my resources – my time, my money, my abilities and gifts, my very life – so that they are in service to the Kingdom of God? It's not a part-time question. It's not a seasonal question that's swept off the shelf periodically. It's the basic question which the Easter season demands of us: Jesus, how do you want me to serve you?

A Day We Celebrate as the Body of Christ

On Sunday, June 18, Catholics in the United States celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. We used to call it the Feast of Corpus Christi ("Body of Christ"), a feast that celebrates Jesus' gift of himself in the Eucharist.

The feast originated in France in the mid-thirteenth century and was extended to the whole Church by Pope Urban IV in 1264. In much of the world, it is celebrated on the Thursday following Trinity Sunday. In the United States it is celebrated on the Sunday following that feast.

There are two major themes to this feast: the Body of Christ that is the Holy Eucharist and the Body of Christ that is our communion of faith, the Church. The Church is called the Body of Christ because of the intimate communion which Jesus shares with us, his disciples. It is expressed in the New Testament by using the metaphor of a body in which Christ Jesus is the head. This image helps keep in focus both the unity and the rich diversity of our family of faith.



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When we gather for Mass, we become one with Christ, transformed by his loving gift. We become one with Christ in the person we may not know sitting next to us in the pew; in the crowds walking in Eucharistic processions in the Philippines; in the victims of parish bombings while at Mass in Nigeria; in the young Polish students getting ready for World Youth Day; and in the Peruvian children receiving Holy Communion for the first time, singing "Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo"/"We Are the Body of Christ."

The feast encourages us to embrace the Eucharistic reality that although we may be strangers sharing the one Lord's table wherever we are, we are one, just as the many grains of wheat make up one loaf of bread, and the many grapes make up the shared wine in the Lord's cup of blessing.

Although there are many divisions among Christians in the world today, as ambassadors of Christ, let us pray that God will show us the way to unity through our devotion to Christ in the Eucharist so that we can offer a more genuinely compelling and fruitful witness to a world in need of God's love and compassion.

*Important Notice for
all ICSC Parish Members!*

ICSC 2017 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 2017.

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
EXTENDED TO
June 15.**

All applicants will be contacted by July 15.

For additional information, list of awards, and entry forms

[CLICK HERE](#)



Stewardship: A Disciple's Response

2017 25 Years of the Bishops' Pastoral Letter



Join us in Atlanta

For the International Catholic Stewardship Council's 55th Annual Conference

September 17-20, 2017



Special Early Bird Member Rate!

\$499

registration fee per person, through July 31

Visit catholicstewardship.com for more information and to register TODAY.

Jesus is the Treasure We Seek

by Leisa Anslinger, author and co-founder of Catholic Strengths and Engagement Community (CSEC).

Stewardship leaders know that forming people to share their many gifts includes stewardship of financial and material resources. Treasure. We cannot run away from this dimension of the stewardship way of life, and in fact, it is a necessary component of comprehensive stewardship formation. The U.S. bishops' pastoral letter, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, captures this poignantly: "But



Of course, many immediately equate the word "stewardship" with requests for financial giving. Here, we draw on the wisdom of the pastoral letter.

a person can say no to Christ. Consider the wealthy and good young man who approaches Jesus asking how to lead an even better life. Sell your goods, Jesus tells him; give to the poor, and follow me. 'When the young man heard this statement, he went away sad, for he had many possessions' (Mt 19:22).

Teaching people to be good stewards of their money and possessions is a great gift to them and to our faith communities. When our people develop the ability to separate wants from needs, to see money as a blessing, and to understand that their giving is an expression of their faith and trust in God, they benefit, as does

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the parish and diocese. Of course, many immediately equate the word “stewardship” with requests for financial giving. Here, we draw on the wisdom of the pastoral letter. Immediately following the reference to attachment to possessions, we are asked to reflect again on Christ’s call: “Becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ leads naturally to the practice

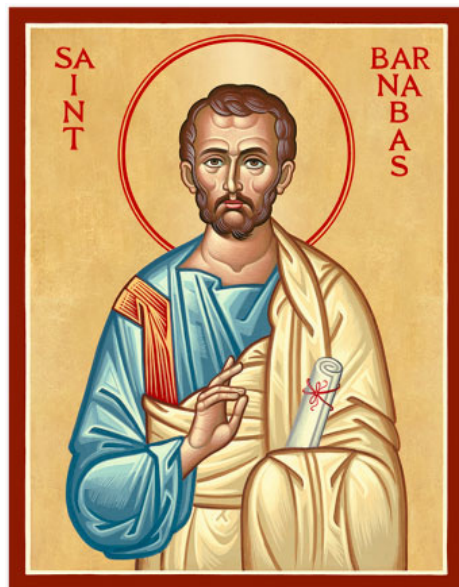


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of stewardship. These linked realities, discipleship and stewardship, then make up the fabric of a Christian life in which each day is lived in an intimate, personal relationship with the Lord” (Stewardship, p. 14).

Stewardship as a spiritual way of life is, in this regard, very incarnational. We recognize that our temporal lives, including the ways in which we use money and possessions, is an expression of our spiritual life. It is not uncommon for people to say, “Father always talks about money.” We know this is not precisely true. Father does sometimes talk about money, because Jesus did! Jesus talked about money because he knew that the ways in which people steward their treasure is, in fact, a barometer of their spiritual lives. It is a sign of what they treasure. “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also,” (Luke 12:34). Jesus is the treasure we seek, and stewardship forms our hearts in this search.

STEWARDSHIP SAINT for June | Saint Barnabas



Barnabas comes as close as anyone outside the twelve apostles to being considered an apostle. He is memorialized, in part, for his amazing evangelizing ministry. He was a Jew from Cyprus named Joseph but the apostles affectionately nicknamed him “Barnabas,” which means “son of encouragement.” When he became a follower of Jesus he sold some of his property and donated the proceeds to the apostles (Acts 4:36-37).

Most of what we know about Barnabas is found in the *Acts of the Apostles*. He befriends Saul (Paul), brings him to the apostles and a very suspicious Jewish community in Jerusalem, and describes for them

how on the road Paul had seen the Lord and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus (Acts 9:27).

When a Christian community begins to form in Antioch, Syria, Barnabas is sent as the official emissary of the church of Jerusalem to catechize its members. Barnabas and Paul taught there for a year, after which they took collections back to Jerusalem. Later Barnabas and Paul, now seen as charismatic leaders, are sent by the Antioch community to preach to the Gentiles where they enjoyed such enormous success that the people even wanted to offer sacrifice to them as gods.

Even after disagreements caused Paul and Barnabas to part ways for a time, Paul continued to use Barnabas as an example of apostolic behavior (1 Cor. 9:6).

Barnabas and Paul would attend the assembly in Jerusalem that settled the question of circumcision for Gentile converts (Acts 15; Gal. 2:1-10). Barnabas supported the Gentile Christians who did not see why they should have to be circumcised and observe Jewish dietary laws. The council decided in their favor. When Paul stood up to Peter for not eating with Gentiles for fear of his Jewish friends, he wrote that “even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy” (see Galatians 2:1-13). And even after disagreements caused Paul and Barnabas to part ways for a time, Paul continued to use Barnabas as an example of apostolic behavior (1 Cor. 9:6).

Barnabas is the patron saint of Cyprus. It was there that he established its first Christian community. It was also there, in the Greco-Roman city of Salamis that, according to tradition, he was stoned to death around the year 60. His remains were taken to Constantinople, where a church was built in his honor.

Saint Barnabas is heralded as having a single-minded devotion to Jesus Christ. In Acts 11:24, it is written that he was a man “filled with the Holy Spirit and faith” whose ministry insured that “large numbers were added to the Lord.”



A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Pentecost Sunday

June 4, 2017 • Mass during the Day

This weekend we celebrate the feast of Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit among the believers of the early Church. Saint Paul reminds us of the special power the Holy Spirit has bestowed upon us and how that power gives us the potential to live extraordinary lives of faith. Good stewards recognize this power and use their gifts, through God's channel of grace, to transform their lives and the lives of others, and thus hasten God's Kingdom. Good stewards know that it is through the Holy Spirit that they can proclaim: "Jesus is Lord." Do we believe that Jesus is Our Lord? If so, how do we show it?

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

Weekend of June 10/11, 2017

In today's second reading Saint Paul's final appeal is a call for unity. God created that unity. Good stewards who share Christ's life in the Eucharist belong to each other, just as God in the three persons of Father, Son and Holy Spirit enjoy unity. We are an intimate part of God's divine bond, God's "family." Saint Paul maintains that we ought to act that way. In the Church there is a bond of family, yet plenty room for variety. Christian stewards use their uniquely varied gifts to live a Trinitarian faith, in unity, promoting Christ's peace and justice. How do we promote unity in our parish?

Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ Weekend of June 17/18, 2017

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?

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekend of June 24/25, 2017

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?