

2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP

September 2015 • e-Bulletin

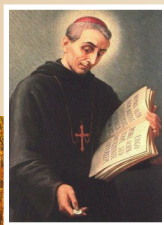
A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER for September

Lord God,

Pour out on us the wisdom and love
with which you fill all good stewards
so that we may please You
with our faith and our actions.
Show us how to open our hearts
to hear the voices of the poor.
Give us a generous spirit
toward our neighbors
and help us especially
to anticipate the needs of those
who are ashamed to beg;
for we are mindful
that to make them ask for alms
is to make them buy them.
We ask that you hear our own prayers,
anticipate our wants,
and draw us closer to your kingdom.

We pray this through your Son, Jesus Christ,
who lives with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever.

Amen.



~ Adapted from the words
of St. Thomas of Villanova



A Transforming Opportunity at the 53rd Annual ICSC Conference

by Mary Ann Otto, Stewardship Director, Diocese of Green Bay, WI

Currently, I am working on a presentation entitled, *Stewardship in the Writings of Pope Francis*. I will be giving this session at the International Catholic Stewardship Council's annual conference in Chicago this October. There is no doubt that I am enjoying the research I am doing and the time I am spending with our modern day saint, Pope Francis.



As I work on my PowerPoint, I think about all those who have attended conferences in the past and those who will be gathering at the conference this fall. The faces of clergy, religious and lay leaders are as diverse as the unique stories and talents they bring with them. Participants reflect the beauty of the international flavor of the conference and remind me of the global nature of our Church. It's nothing short of amazing.

Attending the conference has allowed me to build relationships on a global level and has helped me to grow in my understanding of stewardship. These international friendships have had a great impact on my personal stewardship journey and as a leader helped me to articulate the stewardship message in a more authentic way.

It is hard to deny the spiritual nature of the conference. When over a thousand people eagerly gather for Mass and their voices fill a convention space, you know Christ is at the center.

I have been amazed and sometimes overwhelmed by the number and variety of sessions offered at the conference presented both in English and Spanish. There is something to address everyone's needs and questions. Plenty of practical resources are available and speaker contact information is given for follow up.

I remember one of my favorite celebrants, now Bishop Emeritus Robert Kurtz of Bermuda, at the closing liturgy of a conference say that he was grateful for the ICSC conference because it was an opportunity to learn, reconnect and be renewed as we help our Catholic faithful become better stewards. Thank you, Bishop Kurtz. I totally agree!



Plan now for an inspiring evening with ICSC's special conference guest

Angela Perez Grey



- Catholic educator
- Author and lecturer
- Wife and mother of four children
- Miss America 2001
- Advocate for character education and leadership, especially in our youth and young adults.

At this year's ICSC Conference signature event
The ICSC Awards Gala
 Saturday evening, October 24 at 6:00 pm!

Chicago, Illinois | October 22-25, 2015

2015 ICSC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

As you are planning your conference schedule, make sure you include a Saturday night stay, ensuring your attendance at the **ICSC Awards Gala, on Saturday evening, October 24 at 6:00 pm (and included in your registration fee)!** At the Gala, you will also:

- Help us congratulate our ICSC award recipients.
- Experience a great evening with friends and colleagues.
- Be eligible to win one of our many raffle prizes, including cash. (Must be present to win.)

Made your hotel reservations yet? Be sure to do so soon [HERE](#), including Saturday night to join us at this first-ever Gala you won't want to miss!

Christ and the Spirituality of Work

On the first Monday of September, the U.S. observes Labor Day, a celebration of the strength and contributions of the nation's work force. The holiday goes back many years. Congress passed an act establishing it in 1894, and it was promoted by labor unions as they grew in power. Labor unions have experienced a decline in recent years, but their ascendancy in late 19th century and early 20th century America contributed to a growing middle class and safer working conditions for all.



On the first Monday of September, the U.S. observes Labor Day, a celebration of the strength and contributions of the nation's work force.

For many Americans, Labor Day weekend is a celebration of summer's finale, a last hurrah of cook-outs and recreation before vacation time ends and the reality of school, parish committees and snow shovel sales looms. But for the Christian steward, Labor Day should also be a time to pause and reflect on our own work, the work of others in our economy, and what it means for our spiritual growth and the growth of the Kingdom of God.

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Today, in America and other parts of the world, income disparity has become an increasing fact of life.

Work isn't separated from our spirituality, but should be a conscious part of it. The Lectionary even provides special readings for Labor Day, and one of them is from Colossians 1:24 – 2:3 in which St. Paul describes the source of his strength as Christ's "power working within me." Paul is able to achieve his tremendous effort by his reliance on Christ. And his endeavors were tied to his desire to serve Christ in all things. Does this ring true for our own working environment? Does Christ occupy a place in our workday, in the marketplace? Or do we sometimes feel a disconnect, as if our faith is compartmentalized into another realm of our life, not integral to our work life?

Today, in America and other parts of the world, income disparity has become an increasing fact of life. Some of the working poor must choose between food and medication. Where are we in this shifting economy? If we are doing well, do we think of our responsibility to the poor and to promoting a fair and just system? If our work feels lifeless and without purpose, do we consider our need to strengthen our relationship with Christ by our labor? As we enjoy summer's final fling, keep in mind that laborers should be partners in the work of God on this earth, and ask, how does my work fit into God's plan?

STEWARDSHIP SAINT *for September*

St. Peter Claver

Peter Claver, a Spanish Jesuit priest, is the patron saint of Colombia and of evangelization among people of color.

Born in 1580 to a Spanish farming family, Claver was educated at the University of Barcelona. He was known for his prayerfulness and intellectual prowess. He joined the Jesuit community in 1602 and was inspired to become a missionary. In a notebook he wrote the words that he kept with him throughout his life: "I must dedicate myself to the service of God until death, on the understanding that I am like a slave."



In 1610 Claver was sent to Cartagena, Colombia, a major center for the African slave trade. He also spent time in Bogotá and Tunja, Colombia, where he became deeply disturbed by the horrific treatment of the slaves being brought from Africa. By this time the slave trade had been established in the Americas for about 100 years. Although it was condemned by the Church, slave trading was an extraordinarily profitable industry and thus continued to flourish.

During his 40-year ministry, Claver worked tirelessly for the spiritual and physical care of slaves.

In Cartagena, where thousands of slaves were brought each year, Claver headed to the wharf as soon as a slave ship was sighted. He moved through the filthy and diseased holds to doctor and minister to their ill-treated and terrified human cargo. After the slaves were herded from the ship and penned in nearby yards to be studied by buyers, Claver brought them medicine, food, and other basic necessities. He assured the slaves of their human dignity and Christ's love for them.

During his 40-year ministry, Claver worked tirelessly for the spiritual and physical care of slaves. It is estimated that he single-handedly catechized and baptized 300,000 of them.

Claver's ministry extended beyond slaves as well. He preached in the city square, made religious education available and brought the sacraments to sailors, traders and the wealthy landowners too. He was also a frequent visitor to the city's hospitals. He became a moral force in the city, eventually becoming instrumental in improving slave conditions.

At age 70, Claver contracted a paralytic illness resembling Parkinson's Disease that almost killed him. For the last four years of his life he suffered constant pain and could no longer celebrate Mass. His care was neglected and he became largely forgotten. He died on September 9, 1654.

It was only after his death that the amazing scope of Peter Claver's ministry began to be realized. He was canonized in 1888 by Pope Leo XIII and his feast day is September 9.



Jorge Saenz/AP Photo

*"The Church needs you,
your enthusiasm, your creativity
and the joy that is so
characteristic of you."*

"Go. Be not afraid. Serve!"

-Pope Francis, World Youth Day
2013, Rio de Janeiro

Parish Stewardship and Leadership for our Youth and Young Adults

Matt David, a young adult, was one of the more than 3.5 million people who attended 2013 World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro. Matt shared "The most powerful part for me was the last Mass on Copacabana Beach. Pope Francis' key words 'Go. Be not afraid. Serve!' still ring loud in my soul." Matt, 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 that call?

In our session at this year's 53rd annual ICSC conference, ***"Parish Stewardship and Leadership for our Youth and Young Adults,"*** we will explore the many ways parishes across the United States and beyond 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 there!

Stephanie Moore, Co-founder
Catholic Strengths and
Engagement Community
Discovery Bay, California

Jo Ann Miller, OSF, Director
Strengths Development Center
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Are You a Good Steward of Your Talents?

Recently, I was on a delayed flight with many vacationing passengers who were worried about making connecting flights. The lead flight attendant, Phyllis, took care to respectfully respond to the concerns. There was no sign of impatience in her voice or demeanor. As we were in flight, I watched her interact with a young flight attendant with the same respect and care. When she caught my eye toward the end of the flight, she explained that she was training the young man. I asked how long she has been doing this. "Fifteen years," she replied. "Thirty-four as a critical care nurse before that." Then she explained that she took this job so she could fly free, but found that she loves it. Her final comment was priceless: "My friends all teased me when I first started doing this, but now they're jealous because they see how happy I am."

This glimpse into the impact of someone doing what they do best was inspiring. Phyllis clearly found a good fit in her new profession. She is happy, and the people with whom she interacts are drawn into her spirit of kindness and encouragement, even in stressful moments. There is no doubt in my mind that Phyllis has talents that she is using in her role, likely the same talents she used as a nurse. Her positive demeanor, ability to adapt in the midst of stress, and respond to individual needs were innate qualities that I am sure she has honed over the years. Phyllis is a good steward of her talents, and as a result, she made the flight not only tolerable, but enjoyable.

How are you a good steward of the talents God has entrusted to you? In what ways does the stewardship of your talents make a difference in the lives of the people whom you touch? To learn more about talents and strengths and how to help your parishioners grow as good stewards of their talents, join us for Stewards of Our Strengths, a special pre-conference workshop on the opening day of the annual conference. For more information, [CLICK HERE](#).

This is the eleventh in a series of stewardship reflections by Leisa Anslinger for parish stewardship leaders. Leisa is an author and co-founder of Catholic Strengths and Engagement Community (CSEC).



**For the weekend of September 5/6, 2015
Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

St. James teaches that those who are 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; we are 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. How do we respond to the less fortunate right within our own parish?

**For the weekend of September 12/13, 2015
Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

St. James asks what our love for Jesus Christ can possibly mean if it does not result in action on behalf of our neighbor. He suggests that that faith is demonstrated most acutely in 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?

**For the weekend of September 19/20, 2015
Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

In today's Gospel, Jesus continues to turn society's idea of greatness upside down. He teaches that true greatness lies in being a servant to others; a good steward of our relationships. We want success, but Jesus defines success differently than we do. Jesus redefines our notion of greatness and success. How do we define success? Is our notion of success consistent with the teachings of Jesus Christ?

**For the weekend of September 26/27, 2015
Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

St. James warns against 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?

**INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC
STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL**

(800) 352-3452

ICSC@catholicstewardship.org
www.catholicstewardship.org

We encourage you to check out the ICSC online community at www.catholicstewardship.org under 'members' where members can share ideas and questions. The Parish Stewardship section is reviewed every day by members of the Parish Stewardship Education and Services Committee.



STEWARDSHIP

in the Footsteps of Pope Francis

Chicago, Illinois | October 22-25, 2015



“I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.” (John 13:15) The ICSC 2015 conference takes place less than a month from our Holy Father’s visit to the United States. As Jesus demonstrated for the apostles, and us, in the washing of the feet, Pope Francis also leads us by example. As stewards, he inspires us to go forth in the world to both proclaim and live the joy of the Gospel, and to journey with and serve everyone we meet. Pope Francis encourages us to allow ourselves to be surprised by the God of surprises.

The ICSC annual conference is filled with workshops and forums providing us with practical information we can take home and use immediately as we journey, serve, proclaim, and live our faith. The conference exposes us to fundamental topics, as well as new ideas, innovations and strategies. It is a great opportunity to take a break from our hectic schedules to pray, reflect, learn, listen, share, and participate in uplifting liturgies.

Internationally recognized as the most valuable conference for those involved in Christian stewardship, the ICSC annual conference is an opportunity to connect with others sharing the commitment to live and teach stewardship as a way of life. Many of our participants tell us that sharing experiences with peers is the main reason they attend every year. **We invite you to join us in Chicago...in the Footsteps of Pope Francis!**

First-Ever Preconference Workshops!

ICSC conference attendees have an opportunity to receive additional education at little or no extra cost. This year, ICSC has partnered with organizations to provide three separate pre-conference workshops! See brief descriptions below. For detailed information on these workshops and how to register, visit our website at

www.catholicstewardship.org

Strategic Partner Workshops

Thursday, October 22, 8:00 am - 3:30 pm

FREE for ICSC 2015 conference attendees

Twenty workshops for parishes and dioceses from our strategic partners on topics such as parish and diocesan capital campaigns, parish leadership training, ideas for stewardship, offertory increase programs, and new approaches that inspire faithful living and giving, and many more!

Catholic Foundation Forum

Begins Wednesday, October 21, at 4:00 pm

Ends Thursday, October 22, at Noon

\$95 for ICSC 2015 conference attendees

\$150 for non-conference attendees

Calling all Foundation Directors, CEOs, Board Members, etc. Join us for the First Annual Catholic Foundation Pre-Conference Forum.

This will be a highly interactive format, addressing challenging and timely topics of discussion facilitated by subject experts. Not to be missed!

Stewards of Our Strengths

Thursday, October 22, 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

\$95 – Open ONLY to conference attendees

Led by Leisa Anslinger and Stephanie Moore, from Catholic Life and Faith, the morning session is divided for beginners and those more experienced with the StrengthsFinder® talent-identification tool. In the afternoon session, the group comes together to focus on strengths-based ministerial teams, and leaves with the knowledge and tools they need to quickly and effectively implement the experience when they return to their parish or diocese.

INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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REGISTER TODAY! visit www.catholicstewardship.org

The 2015 ICSC Annual Conference offers something for everyone whether you are a priest, deacon, religious, parish life administrator, stewardship and evangelization coordinator or committee member, parish business manager, youth minister, ministry leader, or a faithful parishioner feeling called to do more. A sample of the conference's many sessions includes:



- Developing Leadership in Our Youth
- Stewardship and Evangelization: Two Sides of the Same Coin
- Best Practices for Successful Grant Writing
- Stewardship of Our Elders
- The Ministry of Parish Management
- Stewardship Success on a Budget
- Parish Strategic Planning
- Theology and Spirituality of Stewardship
- Engaging Parishioners With a Parish Covenant
- Best Practices for Working with Consultants
- Calling Forth Gifts of Time and Talent
- Stewardship and the Family
- Separate Parishes Moving Forward as One
- Numerous how-to workshops in Spanish
- Exclusive sessions and forums for diocesan staff working with stewardship, development and Catholic foundations
- And many, many more!

How does stewardship equip us to go forth in the world to proclaim and live the joy of the Gospel?

Join Catholic stewards from around the world at the annual conference of the International Catholic Stewardship Council October 22-25 in Chicago, Illinois, and we will learn together!

More details and online registration available at
www.catholicstewardship.org
or call 1.800.352.3452, or e-mail us at
register@catholicstewardship.org.

The International Catholic Stewardship Council has named the recently renovated Hyatt Regency Chicago at 151 East Wacker Drive as host hotel for the 2015 annual conference. The Hyatt Regency Chicago is conveniently located in downtown Chicago, is connected to the Illinois Center and within minutes of the Magnificent Mile. A block of rooms has been reserved from October 21 to 25, 2015, at the rate of \$229 single or double occupancy, plus taxes. For best availability, please reserve your room early! Reservations must be made through our conference coordinator, Plaza Meetings, at www.plazameetings.com/icsc/

