
*Stewardship Reflections
for the Sunday Bulletin*

May 2017 (Cycle A)

4th Sunday of Easter (May 7)

Jesus came so that we “might have life, and have it more abundantly.” May we allow Jesus to serve one another through our abundance.

5th Sunday of Easter (May 14)

Jesus says, “Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do.” Christian stewards and disciples accept this challenge knowing the ultimate reward will be eternal life.

6th Sunday of Easter (May 21)

Jesus says to us, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” Is my love of Jesus reflected in the good stewardship of my time, talents, and material resources?

7th Sunday of Easter (May 28)

Christian stewards use all of their resources to glorify God.

June 2017 (Cycle A)

Pentecost (June 4)

To receive the gift of the Holy Spirit you must open your heart and let Him in! Open your heart and be grateful for all the gifts God has given us. What we do with those gifts is our gift back to God. Generously sharing our gifts keeps us more “God-centered” and less “self-centered”.

Most Holy Trinity (June 11)

“God so loved the world that HE gave his only Son.” May we, as Christian disciples and stewards, always give of ourselves as a grateful response for his Gift.

Body and Blood of Christ (June 18)

We, with our many and varied gifts, are indeed on body - the Body of Christ!

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time (June 25)

How does the Lord rescue the lives of the poor today? Through your abundant sharing of gifts He has placed in your care.



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To: Clergy/Bulletin Editors

RE: BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Publish

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

As Pope Francis emphasizes the importance of marriage and family, why not take this opportunity to enrich your marriage and family life by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend? **The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held June 23-25, 2017.** Early registration is advisable as space is limited. Registration and information can be found by visiting: www.yourmarriageisworthit.org

The COLLECTION Basket



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IDEAS FOR LIVING BETTER FROM THE FAMILY LIFE OFFICE

Family Ritual

Make a list of fun things to do with Mom on Mother's Day. Make sure it's something she enjoys doing!! Church together, a trip to a park, a movie day, a picnic on the patio, a quiet day, etc. Then follow up with your plans to make the day a happy one for her. Don't forget to thank Mary, our Blessed Mother, and pray for our mothers that have gone to be with the Lord.

Mother's Day

Drink from a Running Stream

Howard Hendricks

There was a college student who worked in the college dining hall and who, on his way to work early in the morning, walked past the home of one of his professors. Through the window he could see the light on and the professor at his desk, morning after morning.

At night the student stayed at the library until closing, and on his return trip again he would see the professor's desk light on. It seemed that he was always pouring over his books and notes.

One day, after class, the professor was walking along the courtyard when the student approached him with several lecture questions to clarify.

Finally, the student asked, "Would you mind if I asked you a more personal question?" "Of course not," replied the professor. "At least I hope not."

"Well, everyday I walk by your house," the student remarked, "and you are so intent at work. What keeps you studying? You never seem to stop."

"Well, you see," the professor answered, "I would rather have my students drink from a running stream than a stagnant pool."



Reprinted from:
Apple Seeds, Fr. Brian Cavanaugh, T.O.R.

What's Your Purpose?

"Life is what you make of it. Always has been, always will be." —Grandma Moses

In the movie *City Slickers*, tough trail boss Curly explains to Mitch, the tenderfoot Billy Crystal character suffering through middle-age angst, that the secret of life is "one thing, just one thing." Mitch asks, "But what is that one thing?" Curly answers: "That's what you have to find out."

Finding your purpose is finding that "one thing." There's no one set path to find your purpose, but there are a few points to keep in mind:

- Purpose is a broad "mission statement" of life. It can be as simple as a phrase: "make those around me happy."
- No one can give you your purpose. Purpose is something you discover and embrace; it's not thrust upon you.
- Purpose should not be confused with goals. Purpose is the end; goals are the means to that end.
- Purpose in life isn't overcoming weaknesses, or even using our skills well. Great athletes, writers, or scientists can struggle as much as anyone else in finding purpose.
- Purpose is discovered in how you define your life's meaning; the goals you set to fulfill that meaning; and how you use your skills to achieve those goals.
- Once life's purpose is discovered, it rarely changes. Goals are achieved or adjusted for new circumstances, but purpose generally remains constant.

There are two critical days in our lives: the day we are born, and the day we discover why we were born. Discovering the purpose of our lives is a deeply personal and spiritual process.

The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me; Your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of Your hands. —Psalm 138:8

Is Mass REALLY the same every week?

To answer that let's look at two questions:

1. Are you exactly the same person this week as you were last week, last month, last year?

Well, no, not exactly the same person, you might be thinking.

- * I've had new experiences, my relationships with others have matured a bit.
- * I've taken on new challenges or roles.
- * Key people in my life have undergone changes which have affected me.
- * I've learned through my mistakes and sins.
- * I've suffered some losses.
- * I've adapted to shifting circumstances.

So no, I'm a bit different this week even though I'm still me.

2. Has God changed? Is it a different God I worship this week?

Of course not, but during this last week, month, year, I have come to know God better. God's love is clearer now. There is more of God's life and love in me now than before because He has given his entire self to me in the bread and wine of Eucharist, and I, in turn, have offered my whole self to God.

Or maybe I've slacked off and am losing touch with God; then Mass can serve as a reminder that I'm ignoring THE most important relationship—that of me with my creator. I can ask for help and God absolutely will answer.

The familiar words, rituals, and gestures of the Mass offer an experience to which I can return again and again to plunge into the depths of what life is about. It is a concentrated taste of God's presence, a foretaste of heaven.



Reasons to attend Mass every week:

- It takes me off center stage and puts God there.
- It makes me look at the purpose of life.
- It reconnects me with all God's other children.
- It nourishes me at the deepest possible level.
- It sends me forth to love and serve God.

Reprinted from the Family Life Newsletter, published by the Family Life Office, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

Memorial Day

We lose some of the richness of who we are if we forget the people connected to us from the past. Memorial Day is a day to give credit to those who went before us. Remember those who loved and served our country.

Reprinted from the booklet: Ordinary Times, Family Life Office

Prayer of Protection

By James Dillet Freeman

"The light of God surrounds me,
The love of God enfolds me,
The power of God protects me,
The presence of God watches over me.
Wherever I am, God is."

Reprinted from:
Apple Seeds, Fr. Brian Cavanaugh, T.O.R.



Families and the Gospel

May 7

John 10:1-10

In today's gospel Jesus tells us, HE IS THE WAY and warns anyone who offers "another way" to happiness is "a thief and a bandit." Strong words! Don't listen to the sales pitch of society for happiness. Look to yourself where God is present and "calls you by name and leads you to abundant life."

May 14

John 14:1-12

Jesus tells us in the gospel: "I am in the Father and the Father is in me!" The point is: God is in each one of us, in our relationships and in our homes. The vocation of the Christian family is to live the divine gift which is already in and around us. Mothers are instruments of Christ's presence in the home.

May 21

John 14:15-21

In today's gospel Jesus prepared his disciples for his departure. Family life is a series of departures. As we mature and grow older we constantly transition from the familiar to the new unknown. Today Jesus assures us we are not alone in these transitions. "I will not leave you orphans. I will come to you."

May 28

John 17:1-11a

Jesus appointed apostles, he also appoints parents to represent Him in the family; "make disciples of your children, baptizing and teaching them all I have taught you. Don't worry, I am with you always."

May 29

Memorial Day

Our decisions create our style of living and what kind of person we are. That's the awesome power of free will. As we celebrate Memorial Day, ask yourself: How do I want to be remembered? The power is in your hands, or rather in your decisions.

A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

