Discipleship in Action

Boldly respond to God’s abundance by attending Leadership Day on Saturday, November 6, 2004 at Maria High School. With over 90 workshops scheduled in the areas of Parish Pastoral Councils, Evangelization and Stewardship, the day promises to renew you and your parish leadership to do God’s work in your parish.

Bishop Robert Morneau, Auxiliary Bishop of Green Bay and former ad hoc committee member responsible for writing the Bishops’ Pastoral Letter on Stewardship: Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response, will offer the keynote address. Others will be presenting on various areas that fall under the umbrella of stewardship. Topics include:

Stewardship: A Way of Life for Every Catholic by Mr. Bob Voboril, Superintendent of Schools, Diocese of Wichita

Disciples: Called to Create Ecologically Sustainable Parishes Sr. Pat Bergen, CSJ, Stewardship Steering Committee Member

Mission Possible: Raising Funds Through Grantwriting Ms. Kathleen Dujsik, CFRE

Blest and Grateful Mr. Phillip Kapela, St. James-Arlington Heights

Health and Wellness Ms. Mary Fitzgerald, St. Benedict Church Parish Nurse, Stewardship Steering Committee Member

Starting Stewardship Mr. Ross Richards, Parishioner St. Francis Xavier, Wilmette; Stewardship Steering Committee Member

Stewardship Leads to Eucharist Leads to Stewardship Rev. Ron Lewinski, Pastor St. Mary’s-Mundelein

Filipinos and Stewardship Rev. Jacque Beltran, Mundelein Seminary and Stewardship Steering Committee Member

Table of Talent: Integration of Faith and Service Mr. Peter Goschy, Leadership Day Planning Co-chair; Ms. Mary Sturgeon, Ms. Pia Johnson

The Logic of Abundance vs. Scarcity Rev. John Haughey, SJ Woodstock Theological Center, Georgetown University

Vocation and Calling Lea Dacanay, The Catholic New World; Anne Marie Tirpak, Stewardship and Development; Stewardship Steering Committee Members

The Treasure of Time Rev. Tom Dore, St. Giles; Stewardship Steering Committee Member

Stewardship in A Consumer Culture Rich Goode, Stewardship and Development; Stewardship Steering Committee Member

Co-responsables Por Los Dones De Dios Patricia Broderick


Please join us for this day of prayer and education. RSVP through the Archdiocesan Office for Councils 312/751-8364 or ebanda@archchicago.org.

UP CLOSE WITH BOB VOBORIL

Many of you had the opportunity to hear Mr. Bob Voboril, Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Wichita, speak regarding his diocese’s funding of Catholic education through parish stewardship. Several of you have been intentional about stewardship in your parishes and have inquired about specific steps to take to move toward this. Though living stewardship is a leap of faith, you and your Parish and Finance Councils understandably have some concerns. To address these, Bob Voboril will speak to a small audience on Friday, November 5 from 4-6 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Pastoral Center. If you are interested in this “Nuts n’ Bolts” session and would like to invite key parish leaders who would be responsible in this decision to take the “leap of faith,” please contact Anne Marie Tirpak in the Department of Stewardship and Development at 312/655-7713 by October 22. Space is limited.
Sunday Stewardship Reflections and Prayers of the Faithful

Communicating the importance of stewardship in all areas of liturgy and parish life underscores the gospel call to this way of living.

The reflections and petitions below, adapted from the Archdiocese of St. Louis, are offered to support your parish’s stewardship efforts.

October 3, 2004: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
“For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control.” 2 Timothy 1:7
A good steward cannot be a coward. It takes strength, love and self-control to put God first in our lives. St. Paul assures us that we have been given the courage we need to do God’s work.

Petition: That we may have the courage and the self-control to live as good stewards of all God’s many blessings.

October 10, 2004: 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
“How can a thing remain, unless you willed it; or be preserved, unless it was called forth by you?” Wisdom 11:25
Jesus seems so sad and disappointed in the nine lepers who did not return to thank Him. Do we regularly return to thank God? Or do we run off to our busy lives, taking for granted all the good things that God does for us every day of our lives?

Petition: That, like the one leper who returned, we may regularly take time to thank God for all the blessings He bestows on us.

October 17, 2004: 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
...be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient... “2 Timothy 4:2
It is not always convenient to be a good steward, especially when all the temptations of our busy and materialistic world get in the way. Yet, we must be persistent even when it is inconvenient. This persistence marks the true follower of Christ.

Petition: That we may be persistent in our stewardship, even when it is not convenient.

October 24, 2004: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
“The one who serves God willingly is heard; his petition reaches heaven.” Sirach 35:16
Throughout sacred scripture we are reminded that it is not enough to just love the Lord. We also must serve Him. Yet, scripture also promises that those who serve the Lord will be rewarded. God will hear the prayer of the good steward.

Petition: That we may serve the Lord with love, confident that our reward in heaven will be great.

October 31, 2004: 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
“And how could a thing remain, unless you willed it; or be preserved, unless it was called forth by you?” Wisdom 11:25
These words from the Book of Wisdom, remind us that every single gift, skill, talent or blessing that we have has been called forth for us from God. The incredible abundance that surrounds us is all given to us by our heavenly Father for a reason. These gifts are not given for us to hoard but rather for us to share.

Petition: That we may joyfully share the abundant gifts God has given to us.

November 7, 2004: 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
“It was from Heaven that I received these; for the sake of his laws I disdain them; from him I hope to receive them again.” 2 Maccabees 7:11
We are reminded in Maccabees that everything we have is a gift from God. We are to return those gifts to God so that ultimately we may have the greatest of gifts in our eternal reward.

Petition: That we may willingly return a portion of our many gifts to God, recognizing and embracing God’s role as baptized disciples of Jesus Christ.