

# Stewardship of Service

## “Random Acts of Kindness”

Notes for a Sunday Homily

May 18, 2003

Fifth Sunday of Easter

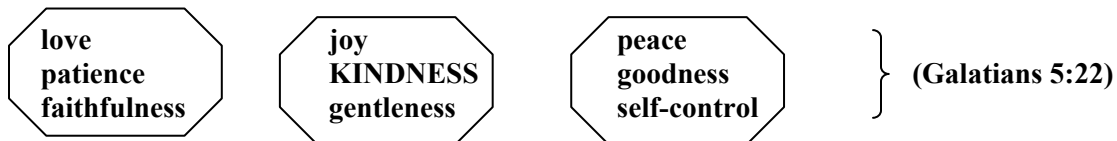
Acts 9:26-21 / 1 John 3:18-24 / John 15:1-8

### A. Introduction

1. Stewardship = an expression of discipleship
2. Stewards: people who stay “connected” to the Lord and through whom the Lord brings about much fruit

*I am the vine, you are the branches . . . My Father has been glorified by your bearing much fruit and becoming my disciples.*

3. St. Paul gives us a list of the “fruits” of the Holy Spirit



### B. Easter Season – doing “random acts of kindness” - bearing this fruit of the Holy Spirit

1. Act of kindness: “. . . Barnabas took him [Saul] in charge . . .”
  - Barnabas extended to Paul the kindness of hospitality
  - the consequences of this: Saul was able to preach Jesus
  - Stewards are to show hospitality – take “people in charge” making them feel welcome
  - e.g., Mary and Martha “taking Jesus in charge” and feeding and listening to him

2. Act of kindness: “Let us love in deed and in truth” (second reading)
  - kindness of deeds: visiting the sick, teaching the ignorant, counseling the doubtful
  - kindness of truth: honest confrontation – calling a spade a spade in a loving manner
  - We are stewards of God’s concern for others . . . we are to incarnate God’s time in time and space
  - e.g., sheltering the homeless, clothing the poor, feeding the hungry

3. Act of kindness: Jesus telling of our intimate relationship with him and the Father
  - kindness of instruction: telling us what faith is all about
  - kindness of giving us life that we might bear fruit
  - Stewards are branches on the vine – receiving God’s gift and giving them away
  - e.g., the great kindness of friendship: friends who care and share themselves

### C. Conclusion

Line from Dag Hammarskjöld: “*If only I can grow firmer, simpler – quieter, warmer.*”  
We might add: “kinder, softer – slower, holier!”