

SUGGESTED STEWARDSHIP HOMILY OCTOBER 26, 2003

Stewardship Focus
October 26, 2003
30th Sunday of Ordinary Time (B)

A. Context

1. What do we know about Jesus from today's readings?
 - comes from Nazareth
 - he is Son of David
 - he is a pilgrim
 - he is a healer, a man of compassion
 - held the office of high priest, offering gifts & sacrifices for sins
 - he is a STEWARD – one who exercises “responsible care”

2. We know even more from the Gospel acclamation

*Our Savior Jesus Christ has done away with death,
and brought us life through the Gospel. (2 Tim. 1:10)*

- Jesus is the steward of life, sharing with us the gift of grace
 - Jesus is the steward of salvation, setting us free from sin & death
 - Jesus is the steward of the Gospel, the good news of God's extravagant love
3. Through baptism, we are called to discipleship, to follow the example of Jesus, to be good stewards of God's many gifts.

B. What is this stewardship way of life?

1. Stewardship: “what I do after I say I believe!”
2. Stewardship: a life of generosity based upon conversion of heart
3. Stewardship in our Diocese of Green Bay
 - a life of prayer: listening and responding to the Lord
 - a life of service: reaching out to those in need
 - a life of sharing: being generous with our financial resources

C. Problem: like Bartimaeus the beggar in today's Gospel, sometimes we are blind; we don't see that Jesus is calling us to a life of prayer, service, and sharing.

1. What do we need? FAITH - Jesus says to Bartimaeus: “Your faith has healed you.”
2. Faith to believe that we are to offer our gifts: time, talent, treasure
3. Faith to believe that nothing is ours; all is given in trust
4. Faith to commit ourselves to a life of sacrifice for the well-being of others

D. Conclusion: Jeremiah the prophet: Shout with joy for Jacob, exult at the head of the nations; proclaim your praise . . .”

- we praise God through a life of sharing
- we experience joy by being generous

SUGGESTED STEWARDSHIP HOMILY NOVEMBER 2, 2003

Stewardship Focus

November 2, 2003

Feast of All Souls

Readings: Wisdom 3:1-9; Romans 5:5-11; John 11:17-27

A. Context

1. November 1st: as a Church we honor all our saints – those who lived out the Gospel call
2. November 2nd: we remember all of our beloved dead – all souls – praying that they know the fullness of God’s peace and joy.
3. All saints – all souls have this in common – they were all, as are we, called to be good stewards of God’s many gifts. A steward does four things:
 - receives God’s gifts gratefully
 - nurtures God’s gifts responsibly
 - shares God’s gifts justly and sacrificially
 - returns God’s gifts in abundance

B. God’s Word & Our Call to Stewardship

1. Martha & Jesus

- Martha and her sister Mary were good friends of Jesus
- they were generous friends – sharing their food and hospitality
- Martha was a believer: she trusted that her brother would be given eternal life
- stewardship is all about sharing: sharing life, sharing love, sharing our money
- stewardship is a way of life based upon deep gratitude for all that the Lord has done and is doing for us

2. St. Paul & Jesus

- St. Paul believed that the love of God has been poured into our hearts
- St. Paul believed that Jesus dies for us while we were still sinners
- St. Paul believed that through Jesus we are reconciled to the Father
- Thus we have hope – hope in the generosity of God who has given us all that we have and are
- Our response: to imitate this generosity by being a thankful, prayer people; by serving all those in need; by sharing our money and lives with others

3. The Souls of the Just & Jesus

- in the book of Wisdom we read: “The souls of the just are in the hand of God . . .”
- further, “. . . as a sacrificial offering he took them to himself.”
- everyone, everyone without exception, is called to a life of stewardship & sharing
- at times we fail here – fail to pray, fail to service, fail to be generous
- today we pray for those souls who have completed their life’s journey, begging God to welcome them into his kingdom
- today, we remind ourselves that time is short – we must be serious about sharing

C. Conclusion: “Give them eternal rest, O Lord, and may your light shine upon them for ever.”
And may we commit ourselves to lives of stewardship, a disciple’s response.

SUGGESTED STEWARDSHIP HOMILY NOVEMBER 9, 2003

Stewardship Focus

November 9, 2003

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome

Readings: Ezekiel 47:1-2,8-9,12; 1 Cor 3:9c-11,16-17; John 2:13-22

A. Introduction – today the universal Church celebrates the dedication of one of the great Basilicas in Rome – St. John Lateran – called “Mother and Chief of all Churches of the City and the World” – this feast gives us the opportunity to reflect upon the fact that we are God’s temple and that we are called to exercise “responsible care” for all God’s gifts.

1. Gospel story: about the zeal of Jesus

- Jesus is zealous for his Father’s will and kingdom
- Jesus shows great anger when people misuse their freedom and exploit God’s house
- Jesus shows no fear in calling people to task

2. Gospel questions for each of us

- How are we using the gifts that God has given us: the gift of our precious time, the gifts of our talents and abilities, and the gift of our money and material resources?
- Are we using these gifts responsibly?
- Are we sharing those gifts in a way that is pleasing to God?

B. St. Paul’s Reminder

1. St. Paul helps us to deal with the question of identity – who are we? whose are we?

2. Paul’s conviction

- we are God’s building; we are God’s temple
- the foundation of our lives is Jesus –who calls us to discipleship; to stewardship
- we must examine the quality of our work; the quality of our lives

3. In the management field there is constant talk about quality control - be it in the making of cars, the production of toilet tissue, the making of golf clubs

- how much more should we be concerned about the quality of our lives?
- are we a prayerful people, giving God our quality time?
- are we a people of service, reaching out to those who are in need with quality help?
- are we a generous people, giving our money freely for the well being of others?

C. Conclusion

Father, you called your people to be your Church. As we gather together in your name, may we love, honor, and follow you to eternal life in the kingdom you promise.

And Father, make us to be a generous people, trustworthy stewards of all your gifts. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.