

For Use August 7-8, 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Stewardship by the Book

The gifts of God that the angel brought to Elijah – food, water, rest, and encouragement – were given, not for his own good alone, but to strengthen him for service. How am I using my gifts to serve others?

Vocation View

The Divine Presence is often symbolized in the use of bread, wine, water, oil, candles, fire and light. Each of us must be a sign/symbol of God's presence. Why don't you give it a try?

Stewardship Reflections

"Get up and eat or the journey will be too much for you!" 1 KINGS 19:7

God knows that committing to a stewardship lifestyle is difficult. However, we were not designed to do it on our own, we need His help. Fortunately, God gave us the greatest gift of all, His son, Jesus. Through the gift of the Eucharist we join our sacrifice with the sacrifice of the Holy Mass and receive the strength and courage to be His joyful disciples.

Family Perspective-By Bud Ozar

"Stop murmuring" Jesus told the disciples in today's gospel. Complaining is a dead-end and constant complaining is nagging. We might feel better, but others feel bitter. Silence or grumbling will not resolve the problem. Address differences honestly and respectfully. Don't make them personal attacks.

Saint of the Week-Saint Hippolytus-Feast Day August 13

A theologian and martyr who died of ill-treatment in the quarries of Sardinia, Hippolytus was an important Christian in third-century Rome. In his writings, he attacked several popes for their doctrinal teaching and lax discipline. Followers set him up to rival Pope Callistus I, making him the first antipope. Banished to Sardinia during a Roman persecution, this cleric was there reconciled to the church and to another exile, Pope Pontian, with whom he shares this feast. He wrote in Greek and may have been from the East. His work "The Apostolic Tradition" preserved details about Christian life and customs in the early church. Visiting Rome around 212, Origen, a famous Christian teacher, and writer, went to hear Hippolytus preach.

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Word of Life

"Although we may feel unsure how best to comfort those who mourn, we must stand with them in their time of suffering. Miscarriage touches the lives of many people, yet all too often this tragedy remains unaddressed. This lack of response not only often leads to unresolved grief, but also fails to clearly manifest our belief that each person, from conception onward, is precious and unique."

For Use August 14-15, Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary (B)

Stewardship by the Book

“Those who seek the Lord want for no good thing,” says today’s Psalm. But in the second reading St. Paul reminds us that, thus blessed by the Lord, the good steward should “give thanks to God the Father always and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Vocation View

A woman clothed with the sun, the moon under her feet and on her head a crown of twelve stars. What an imaginative way to describe the Mother of God. Hers is the most beautiful story of vocation, when she said: “Let it be done unto me according to thy will.” Can you say that?

Stewardship Reflections

*“And Mary said, “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior.”
Luke 1: 46*

After Jesus, we look to Mary as our model of stewardship. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God’s will. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we too are called to reflect Christ to the world. We do this by living grateful and generous lives. We do this by putting other’s needs before our wants.

Family Perspective-By Bud Ozar

In today’s Gospel Jesus speaks of eating his flesh and blood. Parents can identify with this, for they often feel devoured by all the demands of family life. This is unavoidable for children grow in the soil of sacrificial love. Parenting is not part time work. It is a consuming lifetime commitment.

Abuse of Minors or Vulnerable Adults by Priests, Deacons or Others

To report allegations of sexual abuse of minors or vulnerable adults within the Diocese of Gaylord by priests, deacons or other employees or volunteers, regardless of when it occurred, individuals should:

Contact local law enforcement and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (855-444-3911). The Michigan Attorney General’s Office has also set up a special phone line for people to share information that may be of help in their ongoing investigation of sexual misconduct by Catholic clergy. That number is 844-324-3374.

You may also contact the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, Larry LaCross, at 989-705-9010.

In the State of Michigan many professionals, including clergy, teachers, doctors, counselors and named others are mandated reporters. This means such individuals are REQUIRED to make an oral or online report IMMEDIATELY to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services if they

suspect a child is being neglected or abused in any way. Individuals may call the state report line at the number above, which is answered 24 hours a day, or submit a report online at https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971_7119---00.html.

The Diocese of Gaylord encourages ANYONE who has reason to suspect a child is being abused or neglected in any way to report the matter to local authorities and the Michigan Attorney General Hotline at 844-324-3374.

Saint of the Week-St. John Eudes-Feast Day August 19

For 20 years, this Oratorian priest preached the basics of the faith to unschooled Catholics across northern France, distinguishing himself especially by serving the sick during epidemics of the plague. But in 1643 he left the French Oratory and with companions founded a new congregation of priests whose charism was the training of priests. The Congregation of Jesus and Mary, also called Eudists, was reconstituted after the French Revolution and today specializes in secondary education. John, devout from childhood, helped spread devotion to the Sacred Heart and was the first to call for an official feast day. He also organized an order of nuns to care for former prostitutes. He was canonized in 1925.

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Word of Life

“In times of suffering, the human person should be able to experience a solidarity and a love that takes on the suffering, offering a sense of life that extends beyond death... In the family a person can count on strong relationships, valued in themselves apart from their helpfulness or the joy they bring. It is essential that the sick under care do not feel themselves to be a burden, but can sense the intimacy and support of their loved ones” (SB 4-5).

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Samaritanus bonus: On the Care of Persons in the Critical and Terminal Phases of Life* © 2020, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

For Use August 21-22, 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Stewardship by the Book

In today’s first reading, Joshua challenges the people to decide whom they will serve. Recalling God’s faithfulness to them and to their ancestors, the people declare, “We also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.” May we, too, be mindful of God’s gifts to us and renew our commitment to serve Him with grateful hearts.

Vocation View

Jesus teaches us to live optimistically. If it weren't for the peak experiences of love, the small and sometimes big miracles in our lives, we could despair. Thank God our doubts of faith ultimately strengthen our love. Pray for your vocation.

Stewardship Reflections

"If it does not please you to serve the Lord, decide today whom you will serve...As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." JOSHUA 24:15

When we commit to serve the Lord, we must be willing to become a disciple in the work of the Lord. A disciple is a person who spends time in prayer every day, joyfully participates in charitable works and generously supports their local parish and Church mission. If we say we serve God, we must actually do something and not merely talk about it!

Family Perspective-By Bud Ozar

Even though many found the teachings of Jesus "difficult", He did not back down. In our families it is important to say what is difficult to hear, to speak the truth with kindness, to correct with love and guide with understanding.

Saint of the Week-St. Louis of France-Feast Day August 25

Crowned King Louis IX of France in 1226, he married Marguerite of Provence in 1234 and they had 11 children. He was an ideal medieval king, promoting justice and peace at home and abroad. His subjects greatly admired his piety and goodness. Following a serious illness, he went on a Crusade to the Holy Land. Louis was taken prisoner in Egypt in 1250, and to free himself and his soldiers had to give back a city he had captured and pay a large ransom. He embarked on another Crusade in 1270 but died of dysentery in Tunisia. He was canonized in 1297.

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Word of Life

"God's love—individual, real, unchanging—is the true source of our worth, identity, and dignity. It really is not a question of who we are, but rather whose we are. Because his love will never change, nothing can reduce our God-given dignity, and nothing can diminish the immeasurable worth of our lives."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities-["How to Build a Culture of Life"](#)

For Use August 28-29, 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Stewardship by the Book

“Every worthwhile gift, every genuine benefit comes from above,” says St. James in the second reading. But he reminds us, true worship of God involves *using* those good gifts to benefit the less fortunate. Good stewardship is not optional; it is the hallmark of our faith!

Vocation View

As each new school year begins, new knowledge is handed on to the next generation. Customs accumulate over the years which sometimes get confused with real values. Who can speak clearly and freshly God’s central commandment: Love thy neighbors as thyself?

Stewardship Reflections

“Be doers of the word and not hearers only...” JAMES 1:22

It’s easy to understand the definition of stewardship – living a grateful and generous life. The hard part is doing it! How do your actions reflect God’s word? Do you share your time in prayer with God? Do you use your talent to help those in need? Are you generous with your financial resources? If not, what are you waiting for?

Family Perspective-By Bud Ozar

In today’s gospel Jesus warns “what comes from within can defile” a person. Families need to worry about “outside influences” but also about “inside influences.” The values our children carry for a life time are learned at home. Habits of the Hearth are the most powerful influences on a child. That’s the good news! That can also be the bad news!

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Saint of the Week-Saint Jeanne Jugan-Feast Day August 30

Born in Brittany, in France, Jeanne was four when her fisherman father died. Her mother supported six children as a farm laborer. Jeanne became a kitchen maid at 16, and her mistress took her on visits to the sick and poor. She joined a third order at 25, working in a hospital for six years, then returned to domestic service. Soon, however, she began devoting herself entirely to care of the poor, especially widows, living in community with two other women. Though she established the Little Sisters of the Poor in 1842, she was not recognized as the order's founder until 1893. Canonized in 2009, she is considered a patron of the elderly.

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Word of Life

“No sin or crime is greater than God’s mercy. The sacrifice of the Cross reveals that Christ’s greatest desire is to forgive those with a repentant heart.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities-“Death Penalty: Catholic Q&A”