

For Use September 4-5, 23rd Sunday Ordinary Time, B

Stewardship by the Book

The good steward must not show favoritism. The rich may have many material gifts to share, but St. James reminds us in the second reading that God has chosen the world's poor to be rich in faith and inheritors of God's kingdom.

Vocation View

Did not God choose those who are poor in the eyes of world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom? Count your blessings, then come and help others count theirs too.

Stewardship Reflections

“Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?” JAMES 2:5

What is more important – being rich in faith or rich in possessions? Society tells us that possessions are most important. God teaches a different lesson. When we are rich in faith, we keep God first and experience true joy and peace. When we put possessions first, we soon realize we can never have enough and happiness is fleeting. When we put faith over possessions we truly realize it is better to give than receive.

Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Because the deaf man in today's gospel recognized his disability, he could seek help from Jesus. Deafness abounds in families: in our children (“Oh dad, not that again”) in parents (“It is just a stage”) and in spouses (“Are you listening?”). Before Jesus can enter your home and heal, you must first recognize your deafness.

Prayers for Priests

Seminarian Education Fund

Thank you to those who participated in the annual Seminarian Education Fund collection last weekend. There is still time to respond to the great need we have to support our seminarians. Your generous gift will make a significant difference now — and for the future of our Church. If you have not already, please consider making a gift and continue to pray for vocations and our seminarians! To make a gift, please use the reply envelope included in the recent mailing you received, or give online at www.dioceseofgaylord.org/make-a-gift. Be sure to note that your gift is for the Seminarian Education Fund. Thank you for supporting vocations and our future priests!

Saint of the Week-Saint Kieran of Clonmacnois- Feast Day September 9

From his birthplace in Connaught, Ireland, Kieran traveled at age 15 to study under St. Finnian at Clonard. According to legend, he took along a cow for milk. He became the most learned monk there, then spent seven years with St. Enda in the Aran Islands, where he was ordained. He moved on to Isel, but soon left because other monks complained of his generosity to the poor. About 545, with eight companions, he founded the monastery at Clonmacnois, on the River Shannon, which

became a famous religious center for its manuscripts and metal liturgical objects. Kieran died at Clonmacnoise and is counted among the Twelve Apostles of Ireland.

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For Use September 11-12, 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, B

Stewardship by the Book

In the second reading today, St. James has harsh words for those who do not put their faith into action. May we be such good stewards of God's gifts to us that we can never be accused of having "faith that does nothing in practice."

Vocation View

We do not advertise an easy life. Jesus said: "If you wish to come after me, you must deny your self, take up your cross, and follow in my steps." Pray for the gift of being able to accept your vocation.

Stewardship Reflections

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." MARK 8:34

Living a stewardship lifestyle means not only being responsible for my own life, but for the lives of others as well. We realize that our gifts are not intended for ourselves, rather they are meant to be shared with others. "Taking up my cross" means doing things when someone else needs me and not when it's convenient for me.

Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

If we want to be happy at home, we must commit ("lose ourselves") to our family. If we try to be independent from others ("save ourselves") we end up lonely and alone. Happiness is found in commitments. The gospel is true: We save our life by losing it!

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.

Word of Life

“By our baptism, we are members of Christ’s body and sharers in his mission. Imitating Christ, we must care for all members of our communities, honoring each person as unique, sacred, and created in the image of God.”

USCCB, “Open Wide Our Hearts” Bulletin Insert

Saint of the Week-Saint Catherine of Genoa-Feast Day September 15

Caterina Fieschi wanted to be a nun like her older sister, but instead was married at 16 to Giuliano Adorno. Their arranged union was not happy for Caterina; her husband had a child with his mistress and wasted much of their fortune. But in 1473 Caterina had a vision of Christ carrying his cross which changed her life. Thereafter, she devoted her life to prayer and caring for the poor in the slums of Genoa, Italy. Giuliano also changed, becoming a Franciscan tertiary. They both worked at the largest charity hospital in Europe, with Caterina advancing from volunteer to director. She also wrote about mysticism and was canonized in 1737.

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For Use September 18-19, 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, B

Stewardship by the Book

Today’s second reading warns that a heart consumed with avarice and envy leads to jealousy, strife, conflicts and disputes. A giving heart, in contrast can sing instead with the psalmist, “Freely will I offer you sacrifice; I will praise your name, O Lord, for its goodness.”

Vocation View

Sociologists report that only 10% of people are interested in serving others consistently. So when Jesus says, “If you wish to rank first, you must remain the last one of all and the servant of all,” many people would immediately turn and walk away. Are you going to serve as Jesus did?

Stewardship Reflections

“If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.” MARK 9:35

Jesus teaches us that we are called to love one another. Love involves sacrifice. Sacrifice is a word that many of us don't like to hear. We think it means that we must give up something that we want. However, the literal meaning of sacrifice is "to make holy," from the words "*sacer*" = *sacred* and "*facere*" = *to make*. In other words, we make our lives holy by sharing our gifts in the service of God.

Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Disagreements are common in families. But what would you say if Jesus posed the same question "What are you arguing about?" Is it silly and petty? Is it an attempt to impose your will and control on another? Today Jesus tells us and his disciples to give it up. We are meant to serve each other, not control.

Word of Life

"Throughout salvation history, God has welcomed repentant sinners with special joy. Jesus concludes the parable of the lost sheep with these words: 'there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance' (Lk 15:7)*."

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USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

"Life Matters: Forgiveness and Healing After Abortion"

Saint of the Week-St. Vincent Strambi- Feast Day September 25

Vincent joined the Passionists as priest in 1768. Over three decades he served as a leader of the congregation, ultimately as provincial. In 1801, he became bishop of Macerata in central Italy. Vincent reformed the diocese by caring for his priests. He built a seminary, staffed it with gifted teachers, and taught there himself. Vincent also fostered a renewal of worship in his churches. In 1808, he refused to swear allegiance to Napoleon and was forced into exile. But when Napoleon abdicated in 1814, Vincent returned to Macerata. In the final decade of his life he personally turned an Austrian army away from the province and cared for people suffering from famine and a typhoid epidemic, all while continuing his reforms.

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For Use September 25-26, 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, B

Stewardship by the Book

St. James warns in today's second reading that those who hoard their wealth and live only for themselves will be condemned. But in the Gospel, Jesus assures us that all who give of themselves for His sake will be rewarded.

Vocation View

Some people do not respond to God's call because they feel they are not worthy to do God's work. And they're not; nobody is. But still, God calls. There is enough ministry for many more. Answer God's call.

Stewardship Reflections

"Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward." MARK 9:41

We are made in God's image and likeness. We tend to forget this. When you look at others, do you see the face of Jesus in them? When others look at you, do they see the face of Jesus in you? When we realize that all lives matter to God, then gratitude and generosity become easier. Why? Because that's the way we are made! We are one Body of Christ; when one of us is hurting, all of us feel the pain.

Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The words in today's gospel, "Whoever gives a cup of water in the name of Christ will not lose their reward" hits us at home. As parents we gain our "reward" when we bring water to a frightened child in the middle of the night, or Kool Aid to parched five-year olds, or hold ice chips to the fevered lips of a spouse. It is that simple and that sacred. In our homes we give until it hurts "in the name of Christ."

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Word of Life

“Suicidal individuals—with or without a terminal illness—typically do not want to die... The patient requesting assisted suicide is often asking, ‘Does anyone want me to be alive, or care enough to talk me out of this request and support me through this difficult time?’”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

“Every Suicide is Tragic”

Saint of the Week-Saint Wenceslas- Feast Day September 28

Educated by his grandmother, St. Ludmilla, Wenceslas became duke of Bohemia (in the Czech Republic) at 15, after his father’s death and an unsuccessful regency by his mother. Though young, he tried to establish the rule of law, improve education, extend Christianity and open Bohemia to the West. But he ran afoul of his nobles, who did not approve of his acknowledging the German king as their overlord, and of his younger brother’s ambition. At a church dedication, Boleslas, the brother, provoked a fight with Wenceslas in which the latter was killed. He was immediately venerated as a martyr. The relics of this patron saint of Bohemia, the Czech Republic and Slovakia are in St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague.

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