

Mary Help of Christians Church

5980 University Drive, Parkland, Florida 33067

A Call to a Stewardship Way of Life

May 2009

THAT WHICH UNITES US

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)

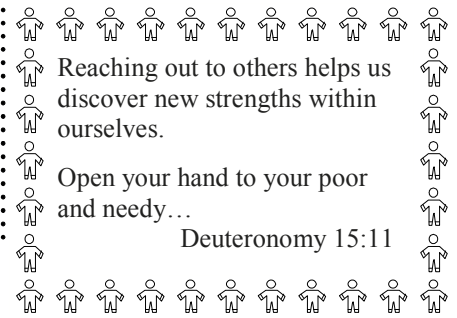
Staying connected to the source of our faith is so important in order to live good and authentic Christian lives. We are called to produce fruit and not to wander aimlessly through this world expecting to be rewarded for just doing the bare minimum. In essence, it is not enough to be a baptized Catholic and "punch the clock" on Sundays when we come to Mass. We must be living and active members of the community of faith which is why it is no surprise to me that "barren" Catholics are so quick to leave the Church because they were never engaged to begin with. They had allowed themselves to be separated from the true vine. If a Christian cuts himself or herself from other Christians, they cut themselves off from the Church. We do not come to Mass by ourselves. We come to Mass as a body of Christ, as members of a larger family, so my question to you is, "Do you know the people sitting around you on any given Sunday?" If the answer is no then we have much work to do because if we are all connected to the true vine then it is impossible to produce fruit if we do not know the other branches that are connected to the vine.

- excerpt from Fr. Manny's homily May 10, 2009

Pastor:
Fr. Thomas Wisniewski
Associate Pastor:
Fr. Manny Alvarez

As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied graces.

Peter 4:10



Reaching out to others helps us discover new strengths within ourselves.

Open your hand to your poor and needy...

Deuteronomy 15:11

Embracing Stewardship as a way of life starts with the personal need within each of us to return to God a thankful portion of our time in the form of prayer, our talents in the form of ministry to others, and the treasure He has entrusted to our care as gifts to His glory.

MISSION STATEMENT

The family of Mary Help of Christians:

- Is a Christ-centered, Sacramental and Stewardship community who strive to show others the path to Jesus Christ through Catholic Christian example.
- Proclaims and lives the Good News of Salvation.
- Discovers and accepts the gifts God gave us and in turn uses them in service to the Lord and all people.

The Ascension of the Lord

Before he ascended into heaven, Jesus instructed his disciples to proclaim the Gospel to all of creation. As stewards of this legacy, we too are called to give witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our words and actions; in how we live and how we treat others. Are we sharing the life of Christ with others in our day-to-day lives? In what ways do we see ourselves proclaiming the Gospel? In what ways can we do better?

- International Catholic Stewardship

Hospitality ~ Greeter Team

Do you like meeting people? Are you a secret host or hostess? Our Greeter's team could use some friendly faces to welcome people to Mass on the weekends. Share your gift of warmth and friendliness with your parish community.

Call Donna Bean at
954 554-7720



THE IMAGE OF THE STEWARD

Jesus sometimes describes a disciple’s life in terms of stewardship (cf. Mt 25:14-30; Lk 12:42-48), not because being a steward is the whole of it but because this role sheds a certain light on it. An *oikonomos* or steward is one to whom the owner of a household turns over responsibility for caring for the property, managing affairs, making resources yield as much as possible, and sharing the resources with others. The position involves trust and accountability.

A parable near the end of Matthew’s Gospel (cf. Mt 25:14-30) gives insight into Jesus’ thinking about stewards and stewardship. It is the story of “a man who was going on a journey,” and who left his wealth in silver pieces to be tended by three servants. Two of them respond wisely by investing the money and making a handsome profit. Upon returning, the master commends them warmly and rewards them richly. But the third behaves foolishly, with anxious pettiness, squirreling away the master’s wealth and earning nothing; he is rebuked and punished.

The silver pieces of this story stand for a great deal besides money. All temporal and spiritual goods are created by and come from God. That is true of everything human beings have: spiritual gifts like faith, hope, and love; talents of body and brain; cherished relationships with family and friends; material goods; the achievements of human genius and skill; the world itself.

One day God will require an accounting of the use each person has made of the particular portion of these goods entrusted to him or her. Each will be measured by the standard of his or her individual vocation. Each has received a different “sum”—a unique mix of talents, opportunities, challenges, weaknesses and strengths, potential modes of service and response—on which the Master expects a return. He will judge individuals according to what they have done with what they were given.

Stewardship: A Disciples Response
A Pastoral Letter on Stewardship

A good steward is thankful for the many blessings God gives us each day.

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good...



Stewardship Prayer

God, our loving creator and giver of all good gifts,
Bless our parish, strengthen our faith.
Grant us the spirit of Christian Stewardship
So that we may give generously of our Time,
Talent, and Treasure.
May we proclaim the Good News of Your Kingdom
Here in our parish and throughout the world. —Amen

Mary Help of Christians, Pray for us



Stewardship Team

Spiritual Guidance
Fr. Tom Wisniewski
Fr. Manny Alvarez

Stewardship Coordinator
Ellen Munnelly

Team Members:

Ana Battifarino
Donna Bean
Joann Epstein
Mae Groleau
Sherill Hernandez
Carolyn McKnight
Mike McKnight
Blanca Murray
Alejandro Roca
Oscar Villada

Around Our Parish...

Upcoming Community Spiritual Events:

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Thursdays from 6 - 7 PM
Rosary Mondays 7PM in Church
Confirmation 5/31

Watch for other Spiritual Events

Including:
Emmaus Retreats
Women’s Club Annual Retreat
Men’s Prayer Ministry Tue 6AM P-A
Men’s Bible Study Monday 7:30 P-A

Upcoming Community Social Events

Youth Group Saturdays at 6:30 PM
Women’s Club Monthly Meetings
Spaghetti Dinners
Fall Harvest Festival
School and Parish Picnic –September
School Graduation - 5/30
Late Nite Catechism Christmas Show ‘09
December 11, 2009
Parish 20th Anniversary Celebration

There are many opportunities for you to come join us. Consider yourself invited!