

Stewardship and Public Life: Bringing the Good News to all Creation

With the presidential election upon us, it is more important than ever for mature Catholics to be mindful of their responsibilities to exercise good stewardship over their neighborhoods, communities and society by participation in the public life of our country.

Jesus said that we, his disciples, are the light of the world. We must not hide that light under a bushel basket (see Matthew 5:16) or in the privacy of our homes or in a church building. We must let it shine so that all men and women can see it. Stewards understand that living out their faith in public life is part of their responsibility to go into the world and proclaim the Gospel to all creation (Mark 16:15); and that their relationship with Jesus Christ and their desire to please him should inform all of their moral decisions, including how they participate in public life and how they vote.

How should stewards exercise their responsibilities as citizens? One way of course, is to inform themselves of the political issues of the day and to vote. Voting is literally the least one can do to promote Gospel values in our communities, state and nation. Stewards are not found wanting in this vital area of their stewardship. The teachings of the church help us understand our responsibility to make informed choices about issues that concern our society and world, especially as it relates to peace and justice and the most vulnerable of our sisters and brothers.

The bishops of the United States have again provided important guidance through their statement: *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States*. Developed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, this document continues a more than thirty-year tradition by the bishops of encouraging Catholics to use the values of their faith to shape their participation in political life. It focuses on helping Catholics form their consciences so they can make sound moral judgments about public choices (See www.faithfulcitizenship.org).

Stewards commit to prayer, reflection and discussion among others in their community of faith about how to bring the Gospel to public life. They believe in continued conscience formation and conversion, take the teachings of the Church seriously, and keep themselves informed on the political issues of the day. Stewards also strive to make prudent choices, vote and encourage others to vote. These are just a few of the ways stewards can help bring the Good News to all creation.

Courtesy of the ICSC Newsletter



September 27-28th



Saint Rose of Lima Stewardship News

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Imagining Abundance

“According to the teaching of the Gospel, we are not owners but rather administrators of the goods we possess: these, then, are not to be considered as our exclusive possession, but means through which the Lord calls each one of us to act as a steward of his providence for our neighbor.”

These words from Pope Benedict XVI’s Lenten message on charity and philanthropy remind us that we are all stewards of God’s creation, called to give and receive God’s blessings. Heeding the pope’s words and mindful of the responsibilities of our baptism, we must seek to be conscientious leaders of our Catholic faith community, using our resources in a holy and proper way.

Furthermore, stewardship is more than just the proper care of what has been entrusted to us; it is also the recognition of and care for the possibilities at hand. Our response to that potential, whether to ignore it or bring it to fruition, is the measure of our stewardship.

Catholic organizations can be divided into those who are trapped in a maintenance mindset, tantamount to treading water for survival, and those who live and breathe mission. Avoid the stultifying seduction of maintenance; emphasize mission. As people of faith we are called to be courageous, prophetic, confident and faithful. We are called to live in a world of possibility, to think big and to never give up.

As Catholics, we are all called to attend to the larger mission of the church. At a time when Catholic institutions are still reeling from a loss of priests and religious, who have done so much to ensure the financial and spiritual stability of their organizations, it is essential that a new generation of Catholics find effective ways to spread the resources of the faithful. As the pope reminds us, we are called to administer the goods we possess, which are not “our exclusive possession.” Ultimately, development is about hope and trust in God’s providence, not for the sake of raising money or meeting income goals, but for the sake of the church’s myriad apostolates. May we all find ways to contribute to their future success.

Excerpts from “Imagining Abundance” by Kerry Robinson, executive director of the National Leadership Roundtable of Church Management

The parish mission is to educate, form and transform persons into disciples of Christ and to foster their active participation in the life, work and mission of the Church.



Stewardship of Time & Talent

All are invited and encouraged to come and explore all that St. Rose has to offer at the

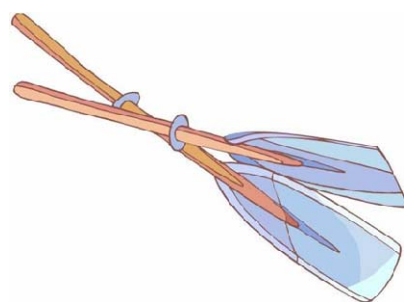
Ministry Fair

on

September 27th & 28th

Parish ministries and organizations will have representatives available to answer questions after each Mass under the tent in the gathering space.

For more information, please contact
Vinny Nascone at 973-379-2561



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, April 25, 2009

The entire parish community is called to participate in our first annual

Parish Stewardship Day

It will be a fun and exciting way for us to serve God and one another. There will be a variety of projects for people of all ages and all abilities. Stay tuned for more details.

Together we can change the world!

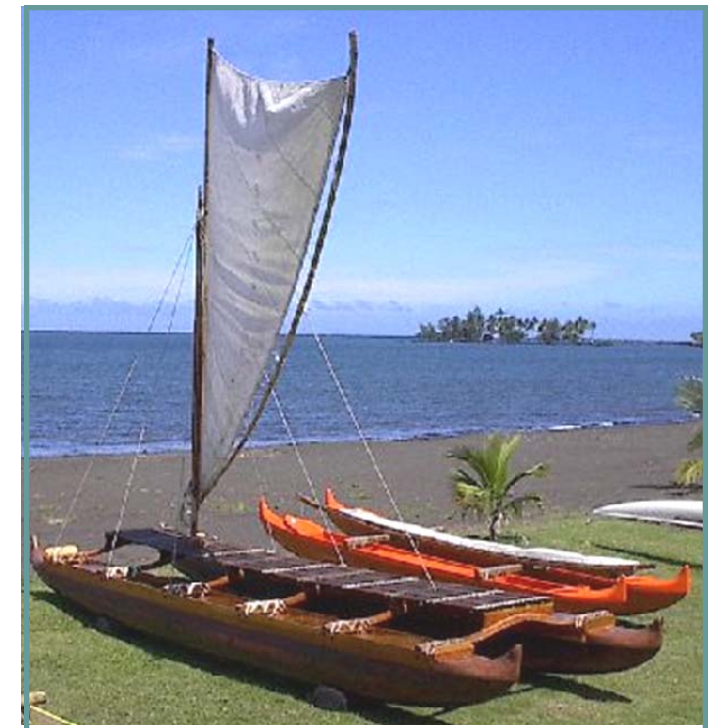


The organizing committee will meet on Wednesday, September 17th at 7:30PM in Devine Center Conference Room. If you are interested in helping with the planning please contact event chair Norma Naas at 973-912-6960 or naas@comcast.net

Mass with Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated on Saturday, September 27, 2008 at 11:30 a.m. A light luncheon will be served after Mass in the Gathering Space. All parishioners whose health is impaired by illness or old age are invited to attend.



For more information, please see the bulletins on upcoming Sundays or call the rectory at 973-379-3912.



Parishes are not like public transportation where you pay your fare, take a seat and wait to be taken where you are going. Instead parishes are like a boat, where there is a seat for everyone and at each seat there is a set of oars.

Our "oars" are our unique God given gifts of time, talent and treasure. For us to become a more vibrant community of faith we all must be willing to put our oars into the water and row together.

The sail represents the Holy Spirit – the mighty wind helping to guide us on our faith journey. Trusting in the Lord is a leap of faith and is reflected in our discipleship and expressed through our stewardship.

May the Spirit inspire us to live, love and grow in our service of God and one another!

