



# STEWARDSHIP, A WAY OF LIFE

**ST. MARY'S PARISH  
WINTER 2009  
IOWA CITY, IOWA**

**VOL. 3**

**No. 1**

**319-337-4314**

**WWW.ICSTMARY.ORG**

Dear Parishioners,

We begin a new calendar year with fresh opportunity to integrate stewardship practice into life – at home, work, school, on-the-road, with friends and neighbors ... everywhere. Let us strive to rethink, recommit and rededicate our daily living with focus and determination to reflect caring discipleship and service throughout the year but especially during Lent.

The purpose of Lent is to provide that purification by weaning us from sin and selfishness through self-denial and prayer, by creating in us the desire to do God's will and to make His kingdom come by making it come first of all in our hearts."

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Ken Kuntz

## **LISTENING TO THE LORD DURING THE ECONOMIC CRISIS**

As many of us watch the free fall of the financial markets and as the politicians and news media grasp for reasons why and people to blame, now is the time for those who profess their faith in Jesus Christ to listen more intently to His call to embrace stewardship as a way of life.

While God did not cause the current crisis, God is certainly not absent during this critical and uncertain time. God is always active in our lives. God uses our life experiences to urge us to re-examine how we live our lives through good times and bad. Do we worry more about how much money and possessions we have than how much God is central in our lives? Do we spend more time balancing our checkbooks, scrutinizing our investments, or paying for material things than we spend with God in prayer? Whose counsel are we seeking during this economic crisis? Is it the government, our financial planner, our stock broker, or the God who provides us with everything we have and need?

It is only human to worry about our financial future, but it is the exercise of good stewardship to look at times like these and see God inviting us to come to Him. Let us use these troubling times to commit to living as generous stewards of God's gifts. If we are sharing our time, talent, and our treasure according to God's will, God has promised that we will be even more blessed. God cannot be outdone in generosity.

## **CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE WEEKEND (CEW)**

### **WHEN**

Women's Weekend March 6, 7, & 8, 2009

Men's Weekend March 27, 28, & 29,  
2009

The weekend begins on Friday evening  
about 7:00 and ends on Sunday  
afternoon about 4:00

### **WHO**

Adults 18 and older

### **WHERE**

At St. Mary's in Riverside, Iowa

### **WHAT**

The weekend offers a chance to retreat  
from everyday life and take a look at who  
you are and where you are going.

Throughout the weekend you will be  
given the time and the tools to rediscover  
yourself, your faith, and your God. The  
weekend includes time alone and time  
with others on the same journey. As a  
member of Christ's community, you  
deserve the benefits the weekend can  
give you.

Won't you join us for an unforgettable  
weekend?

## **WITNESS TALK: NATALIE ROBINSON**

### **THE MASS IS TO BE CELEBRATED INTENTIONALLY!**

The Mass is neither an event to be  
passively observed, nor is it meant to  
entertain. Rather, we come together as  
individuals and as a community to  
**intentionally celebrate** the presence of  
Jesus with us, in word and sacrament.

In the *Liturgy of the Word*, we remember  
the great works that God has done for us.  
We listen to the words of the Hebrew  
Scriptures, the Old Testament, which  
predicts the events of the New  
Testament; and we listen to the words of  
the New Testament, which are the

fulfillment of what was foretold in the Old  
Testament. As we say the Creed, we  
summarize the elements of our faith and  
assert our belief in **all** that our faith  
contains. Because we believe in God's  
love for us and his continued care and  
involvement in our daily lives, we pray for  
each other and for the world in the Prayer  
of the Faithful.

In the *Liturgy of the Eucharist*, the  
Eucharistic Prayer is offered in our name  
by the priest. Although we do not recite  
this prayer verbally, it is **our** prayer. Each  
time we say Amen, we give our assent.

**Listen to the words. Hear them  
carefully.** When the priest asks, "Pray,  
sisters and brothers that my sacrifice and  
yours may be acceptable ..." and we  
reply "May the Lord accept the sacrifice at  
your hands ..." we are asking for the Lord  
to accept the offering of **our lives** in  
union with the life of His Son, as a gift  
pleasing to God. At the conclusion of the  
Eucharistic Prayer, the *Doxology*  
summarizes all that we have said and  
believe: "*Through Him, with Him and in  
Him, all Glory and Honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, forever and ever!*" With  
our *Amen!* we offer all glory and honor to  
God, through His Son, as his body  
sacrificed for us, is lifted up to God. We  
offer our own lives, also being lifted up to  
God.

In the *Communion Rite*, we receive the  
Body and Blood of Christ. We take a few  
silent moments to deepen this experience  
of union and intimacy with Christ.

At the conclusion of the Mass, we are  
blessed and sent forth to bring Christ to  
others, to **be Christ for** others.

If we are able to set distractions aside  
during Mass, we will leave with a sense of

spiritual renewal. We will have reaffirmed our belief in all good that comes from God. We will be strengthened and better able to take this sense of God's goodness and share it with our family, friends and others. It is this spiritual renewal that will draw us back to the Mass again and again. St. Teresa of Avila once asked how to thank God for His great goodness. She was told to attend one Mass. While every Mass is a perfect, perpetual and sufficient sacrifice of praise offered to God, our participation in the Mass is imperfect. We must give ourselves the opportunity again and again to enter more and more fully into this sacrifice, to give and to receive more and more fully the great gifts that are exchanged in the **intentional celebration** of the *Eucharist*.

#### **YOUTH STEWARDSHIP CORNER**

If you haven't already heard we have made an enhancement to our city wide Catholic youth programs for the Iowa City area that we would like to make you aware of. A Catholic youth group entitled *Connections* has been formed and has begun serving the Iowa City high school youth, grades 9-12. *Connections* is an avenue for our Catholic youth from Iowa City public, Regina and home school youth to gather together as a faith community. Our goal is to build a community of faithful youth by providing a place for high school students to be strengthened in prayer, develop a deeper love for the Eucharist, provide service to the Church and Iowa City area communities, understand Catholic teachings and corresponding Scripture, apply current events to our faith, seek new friendships, and of course enjoy good food & music.

We meet on the first Sunday of each month @ St. Wenceslaus.

#### **WE WELCOME OUR NEW PARISHIONERS**

The following have registered in our parish since (November 2008).

1. Nicholas and Latricia Andersen
2. Christoph Beckermann
3. Backhyun Cho and Mihwa Park
4. Jon Elbert
5. Ken and Sandra Gaul
6. Dan and Nicki Jensen
7. Dong Young Kim
8. Selene Lockhart
9. Joung-Hwan and Seeyeon Mun
10. Bethany Murphy
11. Leslie Murray
12. Rob and Chelsey Pangburn
13. Michael Pellizzari
14. Anthony and Amy Randall
15. Jennifer Ehrlich and Tyler Rogers
16. Myung and Jung Won Roo
17. Brian and Mandy Sauser
18. Jill Stalzer
19. Nathan Votroubek
20. Dale Zimmerman
21. Jennifer Arnold
22. Robert and Kelly McLean
23. Guillermo Lopez
24. Reid and Susannah Longmuir
25. Phuong and Suong Nguyen
26. Seong-won Jung
27. JunHee Hwang
28. Teresa Thorpe
29. Christina Polemenakos
30. John and Jacquelyn Sullivan
31. Mary Louise Taylor
32. Ashley Ham
33. David and Xiomara Gomez
34. Mark and Jennifer Blume
35. Rob and Terry Johnson
36. Todd and Kellie Means

## **SMALL GROUPS WITHIN THE PARISH**

**Why Catholic?** The program will start back up the week of February 22, 2009 in our parish. Presently there are 10 such groups in the four Iowa City parishes. These groups may include parishioners from more than one or even all four parishes. When we share our faith with others, we learn from others and we grow more deeply in our own faith. We also talk about it more and are more apt to invite others to join us. Please consider joining a Why Catholic? small group. It may be that your neighborhood group will meet regularly to share faith. If you want more information and would like some resources for small groups, feel free to contact Bob Squires in the Office of Evangelization and Stewardship at 338-0939 or [rascoral@mchsi.com](mailto:rascoral@mchsi.com).

## **A NEW YEAR STEWARDSHIP PRAYER**

Loving Father, You are the Lord of our history; our yesterdays, today's and tomorrow's.

We join all of creation in giving You Praise and glory for the year behind us and for the days You give us in the year ahead. Forgive us for any misuse of days passed, and help us in this new year to use Your gift of days in a more loving and generous way. Give us the strength to be less fearful and anxious, but to find our hope in the Good News brought about by the gift of Your Son. Show us how to face adversity with Your grace and only the peace You can provide, and to see challenges as opportunities to draw closer to you. Fill us with Your compassion, that we may do our part to bring about a more just and non-violent world, and to care for the most vulnerable among us. We thank You for the gift of this new year, and ask that You bless it, and help us be good stewards of the time You have so graciously entrusted to us. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives, and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever. AMEN.