



# STEWARDSHIP, A WAY OF LIFE

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

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Dear Parishioners,

You never know where life will take you, how one opportunity or one decision will change the course you are on and render obsolete the singular vision you have adopted as the path to fulfill your purpose. This is the way of Jesus. When he says, "follow me", he is offering us the chance of a lifetime. We will receive the courage and strength to succeed. When we submit our will to Him, God prepares us, strengthens us, and gives us the fortitude to succeed. Jesus promises to give us the gift of the Holy Spirit to inspire and strengthen us. "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever" (John 14:16).

Let this Easter be the season that we walk away from the nets that hold us in fear and comfort. Let this be the glorious Easter season that we fully respond to Jesus' call to follow him. Let this be the season we pray for understanding, courage and strength. Let this be the season for us to act.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Ken Kuntz

**"We are called as disciples of Christ"**

## **From Mass to "mission"**

Receiving the Bread of Life, the disciples of Christ ready themselves to undertake with the strength of the Risen Lord and his Spirit *the tasks which await them in their ordinary life*. For the faithful who have understood the meaning of what they have done, the Eucharistic celebration does not stop at the church door. Like the first witnesses of the Resurrection, Christians who gather each Sunday to experience and proclaim the presence of the Risen Lord are called *to evangelize and bear witness* in their daily lives. Given this, the Prayer after Communion and the Concluding Rite — the Final Blessing and the Dismissal — need to be better valued and appreciated, so that all who have shared in the Eucharist may come to a deeper sense of the responsibility which is entrusted to them. Once the assembly disperses, Christ's disciples return to their everyday surroundings with the commitment to make their whole life a gift, a spiritual sacrifice pleasing to God (cf. *Rom 12:1*). They feel indebted to their brothers and sisters because of what they have received in the celebration, not unlike the disciples of Emmaus who, once they had recognized the Risen Christ "in the breaking of the bread" (cf. *Lk 24:30-32*), felt the need to return immediately to share with their brothers and sisters the joy of meeting the Lord (cf. *Lk 24:33-35*).

Today in the Eucharist we are called to serve our Lord and Master how are we making that happen?

## **CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE WEEKEND (WOMEN'S WITNESS TALK)**

When I am asked to describe my CEW experience, I simply respond, "eye-opening." Yes, the explanation is rather vague and universal, but that is what the weekend does; it opens eyes. I entered a room of women I hardly knew, and left with a new perspective and genuine appreciation for those around me. I left with a family.

Before mass every Sunday morning, it is not uncommon to witness a mother silently playing with her child or silently observe an older woman rubbing rosary beads and whispering a prayer. I would sit there in the quiet, wondering what we had in common.

I now realize these women and I share a great deal. We have struggles. We have questions. We look to one another for answers. We depend on our faith. When these women sit together at the same table, something magical happens that only God's grace can explain or justify. Yes, it is true, the experience opened my eyes- but it also exposed my soul and restored my faith.

Elsabeth Roush

## **CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE WEEKEND (MEN'S WITNESS TALK)**

One of the many spiritual opportunities that are offered to the Iowa City parishioners is the Christian Experience Weekend (CEW). The weekend provided me a spiritual time of reflection all to myself, moments that I wouldn't have ordinarily taken, to reflect on certain aspects of my life, such as: how my Christian life should be lived, how does my spirituality pertain to my daily life as it relates to my family & career, am I celebrating the Sacraments as they were intended, and how does my role in the community support those of the church. Not unlike you, time is

valuable and to take a free weekend without your spouse and kids was like trying to find that extra hour in a day – it just isn't there. CEW provided me an opportunity to learn more about my faith with other men present in a way that was spiritual and unique without the feeling of "putting on airs". One of the biggest revelations for me was learning that I am responsible to my brother to support his faith journey and walking with him/

The weekends are held each year in March. I would like to extend to you a personal invitation to experience this wonderful, spiritual retreat and get to know your Brothers.

Jesus calls us to a personal relationship with him. He also called us to community. The Christian Experience Weekend is a sharing of Faith and Spirituality through the love and goodness of Christ in communion with others. It is with Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit that we find our strength and support in community.

I invite you to prayerfully discern the voice of Jesus calling you to a deeper union with Him. "So that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us." (John 17:21) To do this, we must know who Jesus is and not just know about Him.

Dave Sharp

## **YOUTH STEWARDSHIP CORNER**

Introducing *Catholic Connections*  
City Wide Youth Introduces *Catholic Connections*

We are pleased to announce that the Iowa City wide Catholic youth group will begin its second year starting in September. This group was started last year by a core group of parents for grades 9-12. If you attend Regina, public or home school you are invited to come and learn about the richness of our Catholic faith. **Catholic Connections** is youth driven and seeks to welcome all to empower them to be disciples of Jesus Christ through prayer, service, and fellowship. **We will meet one Sunday a month beginning Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> @ St.**

**Wenceslaus at 6:30PM.** *Catholic Connections* is focused on bringing youth together in an atmosphere that is formational and comfortable. Through large group activity and small group sharing youth will learn about their common struggles and how their faith sheds light on their concerns. Our goal is to build a community of faithful youth by providing a place for high school students to develop a deeper love of the Eucharist, provide service to the church and Iowa City area communities, understand the Catholic teachings and corresponding Scripture, apply current events to our faith, seek new friendships and of course, enjoy good food & music. Come participate, have lots of fun and meet new friendships as we explore our faith in ways you've never known before.

Attached is the registration information we encourage you to fill out. If you have special dietary needs please let me know as soon as possible. **Return the registration form by Monday, August 31st to St. Mary's Parish office.**

Core Youth Team Schedule

**When:**

Sunday, September 13, 2009

Sunday, October 4, 2009

Sunday, November 1, 2009

Sunday, December 6, 2009

Sunday, January 3, 2010

Sunday, February 7, 2010 (if Super Bowl weekend we will have a Super Bowl party)

Sunday, March 7, 2010

Sunday April 4, 2010

Sunday, May 2, 2010

**Time:** 6:30PM

**Place:** St. Wenceslaus

630 East Davenport Street

**Contact:**

**David & Cathy Sharp**

**319.331.0869**

We're on the Web! See us at:  
**[www.adatum.microsoft.com](http://www.adatum.microsoft.com)**

**We welcome our new parishioners**

The following have registered in our parish since (March 2009).

Miriam Ard  
Elisee Botembe  
Itamar and Soila Castellanos  
Ashleigh Crabtree  
Robert Domsic  
Jonathan DuBois  
Tyler Fenske  
Ashley Fisher  
Michael and Krista Frandsen  
Allison Fuller  
Oscar and Diana Gomez  
Justin and Hallie Hamilton  
David Hill  
Matthew Janechek  
Adam Kahler  
Doug Kallin  
Misoon Kwon  
Carolyn Lang  
Sangdon Lee  
Laura Newton  
Kim Niggemeyer  
Duckki Oe  
Francisco and Hilaria Perez  
Jose and Marie Claire Plata Mora  
Patricia Pogue  
Shona Roeder  
Trent and Tonya Rogers  
Michael Sabers  
Joseph and Laura Schaefer  
Michael Schiff  
Saurabh Shukul  
Andrea Thrapp  
Gustavo and Maria Ventura  
Charles and Kristin Watson  
Matthew and Anna Welter

## **A Stewardship Prayer**

From the ancient Christian hymn  
found in the Letter of St. Paul to the  
Philippians (2:6-11)

Christ Jesus, though he was in the  
form of God, did not regard equality  
with God something to be grasped.

Rather, he emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,

coming in human likeness;  
and found human in appearance,

he humbled himself, becoming  
obedient to the point of death,  
even death on a cross.

Because of this, God greatly  
exalted him and bestowed on him  
the name which is above every name,

that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,

of those in heaven and on earth and  
under the earth, and every tongue

confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

## **7 Steps to Becoming Financially Free A Catholic Small Group Study**

**7 Week Session in Iowa City  
Registration Extended Until May  
31,2009**

**by Phil Lenahan of Veritas Financial  
Ministries**

Here is how to take the gifts God has given you --  
your skills, your education, your training, your  
income -- and using them as He intended. Here is  
how to not just get out of debt and begin saving,  
but to wisely and deliberately set budgeting  
priorities and achieve financial goals that reflect  
what you believe as a Catholic.

**How to sign up?** Contact Bob Squires, Director  
Evangelization & Stewardship for Iowa City at  
**319-338-0939** or email to [rascoral@mchsi.com](mailto:rascoral@mchsi.com) by  
May 10, 2009.