

ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH

CLEVELAND, OHIO

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 The Traits of the Christian Steward
- 3 We Provide the Gifts, God Provides the Miracles
- 4 "Be a Catholic Church" *The Arko Family*
- 6 Feast of St. James: July 25 *Calling Us to Holiness*
- 7 "The Full Meaning of Why We Are There" *Our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion*

We Are Journeying Together *The Weekly Bible Study*

Sometimes, God chooses the most unlikely people to do His work. Jim Metrisin felt like one of those people. When the opportunity came a few years back to lead St. Ignatius' weekly Bible Study with his wife, Lynna, Jim didn't feel like he was the most obvious choice for the role. But as Jim and Lynna explain, time spent studying the Bible with their group has taught them that sometimes what we see as flaws in our personality are exactly the qualities God is looking for.

"Of all the people God could choose to carry His word forward, He chooses the most unlikely character to do His work for Him in Paul," Jim says. "Yet when you read Paul's letters, it's clear that they needed someone like Him. For me, being the flawed man that I am, I realize that these attributes that seem like a flaw in someone's personality can be what is needed at that time."

"One of the lessons that we've talked about gives us all that hope that we, as flawed beings, can also strive and find ways of looking through our flaws and use our flaws



Jim and Lynna Metrisin say they have experienced many spiritual benefits during their time with the St. Ignatius Bible Study.

in a more positive way to try and do the work that has been set out for us," Lynna agrees.

Meeting each Wednesday evening from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the basement of the rectory, the study follows the *Little Rock Scripture Study*, a Catholic Bible study designed by the Diocese of Little Rock.

"There are individual programs that we use, basically on any of the books of the Bible," Lynna says. "There are also some thematic studies, like women of the Old

continued on page 5



The Traits of the Christian Steward

Each day, we strive to live stewardship in our lives, recognizing our roles as “God’s co-workers” in His creative, redemptive and sanctifying work. But in our quest to live as disciples of Christ, many obstacles often arise.

One of the most prevalent roadblocks in living stewardship is understanding the traits that make up a good Christian steward. Surely, it would be much more convenient if we had some sort of “stewardship profiler” who could lay out the necessary steps to becoming a good steward, like on one of those television crime dramas. Unfortunately, it more often feels like living stewardship is a lifelong journey that we will never fully comprehend.

Fortunately, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ pastoral letter on stewardship, *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, gives some insight into the characteristics that make up a good Christian steward. It may not have the powers of a stewardship “profiler” or “mentalizer,” but it certainly gives us some tangible things to think about.

The Christian steward should display some of the following traits:

Insight – Before the disciples could live what we know as the stewardship way of life, they needed a flash of insight, or a certain way of viewing the world and their relationship to it in a fresh light. This “divine grandeur,” more than anything else, is often what sets people on the path to Christian stewardship (*Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, 39).

Conscientiousness – Stewards are fully conscious of their accountability in sharing of their time, talent and treasure. As caretakers of the gifts that God has given them, they have the opportunity and responsibility to use them to their fullest potential to spread God’s Kingdom on Earth (40).

Generosity – Christian stewards are generous out of love as well as duty. They should display a desire to share with and care for others based on the sacramental graces they have received. And they are also cognizant of the many warnings that the New Testament presents to those who fail in charity and authentic love (40).

Joy – Christian stewards are often presented with difficult obstacles, but they should remain joyful in the face of challenges to their lives of stewardship. Like Paul, the good steward is able to say, “I am filled with encouragement, I am overflowing with joy all the more because of all our affliction” (2 Cor. 7:4). Only by serving with a joyful spirit will stewards fully reap the rewards of their service, both in this life and the next.

Indeed, living as a Christian steward is a lifelong journey with many ups and downs along the way. But if we strive to consciously incorporate each of these characteristics into our giving of time, talent and treasure, we will find that the profile of a good Christian steward will become much clearer with each experience of service.

A Letter From Our Pastor

We Provide the Gifts, God Performs the Miracles

Dear Parishioners,

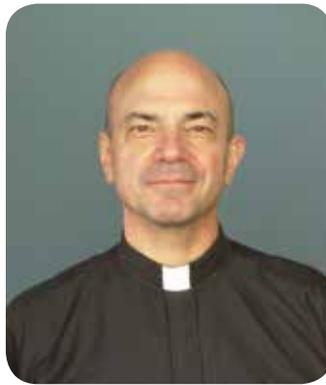
It is human nature to try to neatly place things into categories. If we categorize the miracles performed by Christ, the two largest groupings might fall under the headings “Healing” and “Feeding.”

This is exactly what we are about here at St. Ignatius of Antioch. At the base of all our liturgies is the Eucharist, when we come together in communion with the Lord and with one another to be both fed and healed. Even one of Christ’s most famous miracles

– the Feeding of the Multitude – involved both healing and feeding from a spiritual and a literal perspective.

The reason the large crowd gathered was because Jesus’ reputation as a healer had spread and grown. He felt compassion for that crowd, which is another way of saying He loved them and felt sorry that they were hungry due to their willingness to sit and be with Him for so long. Recognizing it was late in the day and that many of them had not eaten, Jesus literally fed them – but that day, He didn’t stop with physical nourishment. He also fed them spiritually with His words, and simultaneously, healed their wounded hearts by preaching a message of hope and forgiveness in the midst of a dark and hardened world.

The narrative of Christ taking a small amount of food and using it to feed thousands is familiar to all



of us. It is reported in all four Gospels. However, I would like to highlight one aspect of that miracle. It all started with one boy who was willing to share what little he had. Because the boy made the gift of his fishes and loaves, the Lord took it and multiplied it many times over, nourishing so many more people than what that little bit initially could.

Isn’t that what we as a parish are called to do? We make gifts of our time, our talent,

and our treasure as good stewards – but nevertheless, it is God who takes those gifts and performs miracles with them. Our goal is to give what we have so that Christ might use it, multiplying it to feed, to heal and draw a multitude of people closer to Him.

The reality is that without the gifts, there can be no miracles, and without miracles, we are a hungry and broken people. Christ has come to renew, nourish, fulfill, and restore – and that, brothers and sisters, is what Christianity is all about.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Troha". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Fr. Michael Troha

.....
It all started with one boy who was willing to share what little he had. Because the boy made the gift of his fishes and loaves, the Lord took it and multiplied it many times over, nourishing so many more people than what that little bit initially could.
.....

“Be a Catholic Church” *The Arko Family*

As you may have noticed, Anne Marie and Dennis Arko’s son, Andrew, was featured in a story in the previous issue of our parish newsletter. The Arko family provides a wonderful example of parents living as good stewards, who encourage their children to live as good stewards.

Refugees after the original closing of St. Wendelin, the Arko family searched for a parish and found a home in the diverse faith community of St. Ignatius of Antioch.

“St. Ignatius has the diversity that we desire and ministries affecting a wide portion of the population,” says Dennis Arko, high school English teacher at St. Ignatius. “With the diversity and the trenchant social realities of an old urban parish, we feel that St. Ignatius provides the context for our own version of homeschooling in the Catholic faith.”

No strangers to the area, Anne Marie – née Tepley – and Dennis both had very similar upbringings in Catholic families of seven children each on the east side of Cleveland.

Traditional for the 1960s and 1970s, their families attended Mass together and hosted large celebrations for First Communions and Confirmations. The boys were altar servers or lectors, and the parents were ushers or Eucharistic Ministers. Anne Marie’s family also prepared a Seder meal at Easter time.

The Arko family has even had its own “family priest” for over 45 years – the now-retired Fr. James Caddy, who renewed the wedding vows of Anthony and Virginia Arko at their 60th wedding anniversary two years ago.

“Fr. Caddy shepherded the seven Arko children through our teens and



The Arko family – (back row, from left) Andrew, senior at St. Ignatius; John, sophomore at St. Ignatius; Dennis; (front row, from left) Evan Paul and Anne Marie (not pictured, Ethan and Alyse, both away in college)

celebrated our weddings as young adults,” Dennis says. “Fr. Caddy has baptized nearly all of the Arko children, buried deceased family members and friends, married all of the second generation and is now baptizing the third generation.”

Anne Marie and Dennis met in their late 20s and were married in 1989. They embraced the faith together as adults with deep conviction, and Dennis’ own faith deepened during nearly four years with the Peace Corps in Tanzania, East Africa.

“The commitment to the faith took on another dimension as we became parents,” Dennis says. “We wanted our sons and daughters to be involved.

We wanted our children to notice that they want to attend Mass, not that they simply ‘have to go to Mass.’”

Dennis and Anne Marie’s family of five includes Ethan, 21; Alyse, 19; Andrew, 18; John, 16; and Evan Paul, 13; as well as Millie (dog), Minnie (cat) and Darwin (tortoise).

At St. Ignatius, Dennis serves as a lector, Anne Marie serves as a Eucharistic Minister, and the boys are altar servers. Ethan even serves on the altar when he is home from college. The Eagle Scout projects of both the older sons took place at St. Ignatius. At St. Wendelin, the Arko children also sang in the Children’s Choir.

“Be a Catholic Church” *continued from previous page*

Catholic home life for the Arko family emphasizes being together whether attending Mass or sharing dinner, which begins with prayer. When the family visits grandparents on the east side, the children witness the continuity of family prayer at meals.

“Our family’s Catholic home life is very much a continuing of the traditions that were part of our families as we grew up,” says Anne Marie, a Registered Nurse. “We especially value Holy Week. Dennis’ schedule for spring vacation as a teacher and mine as a nurse has enabled the family to be together and to focus on the activities of Holy Week.”

Inspired by the new stewardship program, Anne Marie and Dennis have recently joined the Gardening Committee in addition to their current ministries. Dennis is also completing a term on Parish Council.

Stewardship has brought the Arko family even deeper into parish life as they emphasize the difference between a “church” and a “faith community” for their children.

“The commitment to stewardship is a logical and a spiritual one and a specially felt one since we searched for a parish and found St. Ignatius,” Dennis says. “We all have a responsibility to care for the community. As our

children get older, we look forward to greater participation.”

Dennis and Anne Marie thank all the active parishioners who have provided their children with a powerful witness, and they encourage families with young children to get involved as they can according to their family life.

“We are grateful to all the parishioners who have worked for the parish ‘warming seats’ for us!” Dennis says. “To parents with young families, concentrate on your families and cultivate spirituality. Be a Catholic school. A gradual involvement in other ministries of the parish is possible. As others have for us, we will warm seats for you!”

We Are Journeying Together *continued from front cover*

Testament. Everyone who participates gets a study guide and then a commentary with the appropriate Scripture.”

Participants read the week’s chosen Scripture and commentary prior to each meeting and then respond to a selection of questions. The Wednesday evening meeting opens with a song and prayer before breaking into small groups to review the study questions.

“There are no experts – we are journeying together,” Lynna says. “At the end, we watch a video with people who really are experts on the Bible and that helps us pull together our thoughts.”

As members of the study for the past 15 years, both Jim and Lynna say the studies have enriched their faith lives. When she serves as a lector at Mass, Lynna says her knowledge of Scripture adds a depth to the Sunday readings. Similarly, when Jim does his work with the Prison Ministry, he says feeling like he knows God’s Word more fully has helped him better serve those he counsels.

“To be able to say, ‘This is what Jesus says about this,’ or to tell a prisoner what Scripture he should take a look at, it has helped me,” Jim says. “We can now read a passage and say to ourselves, ‘What does that passage say? What does it say to me? And what am I going to do about it?’ For us, it’s the impetus of doing something about it.”

Though the group is currently on break for the summer, Bible Study sessions will resume Sept. 16, with a look at the book of Acts and continue for 10 weeks before picking back up again in the spring. Those who are interested can email Jim and Lynna at jimandlynna@cox.net or call 216-226-6968. The study is open to all Catholics, and friends and family from other parishes are welcome to attend.

In speaking of other parishes, Lynna says she and Jim would like to thank St. Ladislav Church in Westlake for helping provide the *Little Rock Scripture Study* materials in the past when St. Ignatius faced tougher times.

“They were extremely generous to lend us their materials,” Lynna says.

Feast of St. James: July 25 *Calling Us to Holiness*

The beauty of St. James the Great's character lies in his undivided heart — a heart which treasured its Lord from its very depths.

The Gospel story (Luke 5:1-11) recounts that, after laborious fishing efforts, his brother John and his father, Zebedee, had caught nothing. Jesus accompanied them and caught an astonishing bundle of fish. At the sight of this miraculous catch of fish, they began to understand that this man Jesus was not someone to merely pass by — that this man must be divine. He called them to “leave all and follow” Him. From this moment forward, St. James had a relentless resolve to follow his newfound Messiah.

Christ made James one of the Twelve Apostles, giving him the mission to proclaim the Good News, and the authority to heal the sick and suffering.

Jesus also allowed him some special privileges.

For instance, when Jairus' daughter was raised, James, along with John and Peter, were the only ones Jesus allowed to accompany Him. When Christ sought God's presence in an intimate way through prayer from a mountaintop, He brought along with Him only James, John and Peter. There, they witnessed the glorious transfiguration of Jesus. He also chose these



three to be at His side during His excruciating Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. Clearly, he was one of Christ's most beloved followers.

This brave saint was also one of the first martyrs of the Church. King Herod Agrippa killed him with a sword in an early Church persecution. “Confidence in God arms us... with that supernatural courage which causes us to dread nothing in our struggle for the kingdom of God: that conquering intrepidity which has animated the martyrs,” wrote Dietrich von Hildebrand in *Transformation in Christ*. St. James certainly had this “conquering intrepidity.”

St. James is the patron saint of laborers, hat makers, rheumatoid sufferers, and laborers.

Let us not allow such a saint to pass by unnoticed. Let us emulate his dedication to God in our daily lives. As Pope John Paul II taught on the XXXIX World Day of Prayer for Vocations, “To you all ‘beloved of God and saints by vocation...’ (Rm 1:7). These words of the Apostle Paul to the Christians of Rome introduce the theme of... ‘The vocation

to holiness.’ Holiness! This is the grace and aim of every believer.” We are called to be as holy as we can be — just as holy as St. James — today, not tomorrow.

Alleluia, truly, He is coming soon!

“The Full Meaning of Why We Are There”

Our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

What an incredible gift we have been given in the Eucharist! In a mysterious way, God – Creator of the entire universe – hidden under the appearance of mere bread, literally becomes one with His creatures as our Lord and Savior enters our very bodies. As St. Maximilian said, in awe of the sacrament, “You come to me and unite Yourself intimately to me under the form of nourishment. Your Blood now runs in mine, Your Soul, Incarnate God, compenetrates mine, giving courage and support. What miracles! Who would have ever imagined such!”

It is the sacred role of the priest, as Christ’s representative on Earth, to consecrate the Eucharist at each Mass, transforming the bread and the wine into the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of our Lord. The priest then reverently distributes our Lord, allowing us to become partakers in the sacrifice of the Mass.

Yet in large parishes such as St. Ignatius of Antioch, faithful men and women are also carefully chosen to become what is known as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. These ministers assist the priest in the distribution of



Georgianne Wanous, Eucharistic Minister

the Body and Blood at Mass. They also help bring Christ to those who are unable to attend the liturgy due to illness or other limitations. Because of the great importance of their role, it is essential that all Eucharistic Ministers be in good standing with the Church and that

they be carefully chosen, trained and formed for their ministry.

“The essence of our celebration is to be able to extend the table to those who cannot be there,” says S. Dianne Piunno, Pastoral Associate. “That’s the height of our celebration – partaking in the Eucharist.

“Anybody who ministers as such has a great understanding for the beauty of the sacrament,” she continues. “It helps you develop your own spiritual life by assisting those in need.”

Georgianne Wanous has been serving as a Eucharistic Minister at St. Ignatius of Antioch since 1992. Before then, she was privileged to become both the Liturgy Coordinator and a Eucharistic Minister at St. James Parish.

“Taking Communion and distributing Communion makes the Mass and liturgy complete,” Georgianne says. “It’s almost like that’s why you’re there. We go to break the Bread together, and the Bread is more than just bread, but we go to do it together. Through it, we are nourished for the next moments of our life.”

Through her years as a Eucharistic Minister, Georgianne has come to appreciate the vital role that

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“You almost can’t help having your devotion to the Eucharist increase while serving in this ministry because you are so close. It means a great deal to me to not just receive the Bread, but to take the Blood too. It makes it whole, as far as I’m concerned.” – Georgianne Wanous

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Our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion *continued from previous page*

the Eucharist plays in both the liturgy and our faith as a whole.

“For me, to go to Sunday liturgy and to not take Holy Communion doesn’t make sense,” Georgianne says. “It’s when we receive Holy Communion that we get the full meaning of why we are there. It’s the culmination of the liturgy – in community, we take Communion.”

Georgianne feels privileged to be part of this ministry, and has seen her own relationship with Christ in the Eucharist deepen over the years.

“You almost can’t help having your devotion to the Eucharist increase while serving in this ministry because you are so close,” Georgianne says. “It means a great deal to me to not just receive the Bread, but to take the Blood too. It makes it whole, as far as I’m concerned.

There is something that makes me feel that I’m a part of the resurrection community when I participate fully through receiving the Bread and the Blood. As a cup minister, I always pray

that people will receive the Precious Blood and have that same feeling.”

If you would like to know more about this ministry, please contact S. Dianne Piuino at 216-251-0300.

