

A DISCIPLE'S RESPONSE...LIVING AS A CHRISTIAN STEWARD



We are pleased to announce that St. Katharine Drexel Parish will be hosting a retreat on November 13 & 14, 2015 entitled '*A Disciple's Response: Living as a Christian Steward*'. Our special guest speaker for this event will be Fr. Gary Kastl.

Since his ordination in 2007 for the Diocese of Tulsa, Fr. Kastl has served as an Associate Pastor at St. Mary's in Tulsa, and in a number of leadership capacities for the diocese, including Chair of the Priestly Life and Ministry Committee, Director for Continuing Education and Coordinator of Priest's Retreats and Days of Reconciliation. Fr. Kastl served as Pastor at St. Pius X, in Tulsa, and is the current Pastor of St. Anne Catholic Church in Broken Arrow, OK. In addition to his diocesan work, he has worked for the Catholic Leadership Institute as the Ministry Development Manager, helping to implement their programs for ongoing priestly leadership formation in many diocese across the country. Stewardship has been an integral part of Fr. Kastl's life, and he has been very successful in developing stewardship as a way of life in all three parishes where he has been assigned.

He will share his experiences with 'Living as a Christian Steward' and the total transformation that can take place in parish communities when this lifestyle is embraced.

This very special event will kick off with a sit-down dinner on Friday night, and conclude with Mass on Saturday afternoon. Over the course of the retreat, a series of four talks will be conducted, each followed by group discussion, personal reflection and prayer. A continental breakfast and box lunch will be served on Saturday. We are opening this retreat to all parishes within Dodge County. Registration is required and will begin in October. A \$20 offering, per attendee, will be requested to cover costs. Additional details for this **must-attend retreat** will be forthcoming.

INTRODUCING STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER MARY ANN FIREHAMMER



My name is Mary Ann Firehammer. I moved to Beaver Dam in 1969 and have lived here ever since. I was married to Jim Firehammer in 1970, at St. Peter Parish, and we have been members of the parish since then. Jim and I have two daughters, Amy (Mike) Thronsdon and Jill (Bruce) Kaufmann, and two grandchildren, Katie and Will Kaufmann. Both of our daughters graduated from SKDS (then UCPS), now live in Beaver Dam, and are members of St. Katharine Drexel Parish. Katie also graduated from SKDS and is now a sophomore at BDHS; Will is currently a sixth grader at SKDS. Sadly, Jim passed away in March of this year.

When my daughters were in grade school, my husband and I were very active in the Home and School Association and were charter members of the organization. As time passed, we became very involved as members of the parish. I have been a Eucharistic Minister for 36 years and have been coordinator of that ministry for 10 years. I am also a member of the Liturgy committee, as well as a new member of the Stewardship committee. I am a volunteer at the Dodge County Food Pantry at the St. Vincent de Paul store, and am the co-manager of the St. Katharine Drexel Book Store. Once a month, I vacuum the church carpeting and also help with the semi-annual deep cleaning of the church.

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DREXEL PARISH**

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St. Katharine Drexel Parish

Parish Mission:
Praise God, Love
People, Equip Disciples
to Transform our
Community.

We're on the Web!
www.stkatharinedrexelbd.org

MARY ANN FIREHAMMER...

I believe that stewardship is very vital to our parish. To me, stewardship is the giving back of gifts which we have received from God to make our parish a strong community, which provides a place for all to pray and grow in service and love of God. We all have something to contribute by giving some of our time, using our God-given talents, and providing monetary support to the programs of our parish. Stewardship should be a serious commitment for all of us... children, teens and adults of all ages.



STEWARDSHIP BRINGS TRUE HAPPINESS

BY: GAIL NAMPEL

Where do you find happiness? Our secular world tries very hard to convince us that to be truly happy, we must have every new item that makes it to market. We must have high-paying jobs, huge homes, new cars, designer clothes, big-screen TVs, computers and smart phones. We stress if our kids aren't the best in school, or in sports. We live to provide them with whatever they ask for; As parents, we can't say "no"! But, are we happy? Are they happy?

Why are we so materialistic? What ever happened to the little pleasures in life? Perhaps it's time to re-examine what is truly important.

Since chairing our stewardship committee, I have been on a mission to place God at the helm. Let Him steer the ship and help me find true happiness. It's working! He never ceases to amaze by His often-times subtle, but sometimes in-your-face influence in my life. I am so grateful for the blessings he provides. Like this morning, for example. I awoke rested, refreshed and ready to face the day. "Thank you, God!" Driving into the office, I witnessed the most incredible sunrise. "Thank you, God!" I arrived at the office, sat at my desk, and was greeted by a photo of my beloved grandson, sporting an incredible smile. "Thank you, God!" I am so blessed! So many wonderful gifts, all before 6:30 a.m. Could I be any happier? Could the day get any better?

My thoughts turned to finishing up the September issue of the 'Stewardship Examiner'. August had gotten away from me, and I needed additional content. I prayed to God, asking for help. Lo and behold, a friend sent me an email containing the poem I inserted below. No personal message from her...just the poem. Gives you shivers doesn't it? THANK YOU, GOD! You never cease to amaze! Somehow, I will find a way to return the favor. Isn't that what stewardship is all about?

"TOUCH OF THE MASTERS HAND"
A POEM BY MYRA WELCH

T'was battered and scarred, and the auctioneer
Thought it scarcely worth his while
To waste much time on the old violin,
But held it up with a smile.

"What am I bidden, good folks," he cried,
"Who'll start the bidding for me?"
"A dollar, a dollar," then, two! Only two?
"Two dollars, and who'll make it three?"

"Three dollars, once; three dollars, twice;
Going for three . . ." But no,
From the room, far back, a grey haired man
Came forward and picked up the bow;

Then, wiping the dust from the old violin,
And tightening the loose strings,
He played a melody pure and sweet
As a caroling angel sings.

The music ceased, and the auctioneer,
With a voice that was quiet and low,
Said: "What am I bid for the old violin?"
And he held it up with the bow.

"A thousand dollars, and who'll make it two?"

Two thousand! And who'll make it three?
Three thousand, once; three thousand, twice;
And going and gone," said he.

The people cheered, but some of them cried,
"We do not quite understand
What changed its worth?"
Swift came the reply:
"The touch of a master's hand."

And many a man with life out of tune,
And battered and scarred with sin,
Is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd,
Much like the old violin.

A "mess of potage," a glass of wine;
A game, and he travels on.
He is "going" once, and "going" twice,
He's "going" and almost "gone."

But the Master comes and the foolish crowd
Never can quite understand
The worth of a soul and the change that's wrought
By the touch of the Master's hand.