



Blessed SACRAMENT

BECOMING STEWARDS IN COMMUNITY

A Letter From Our Pastor

INTRODUCING OUR NEW PARISH STEWARDSHIP NEWSLETTER

Dear Parishioners,

Welcome to the first issue of our new monthly parish newsletter! As our parish community continues to grow and develop stewardship as a way of life, we recognize the need for increased communication. Through this newsletter, we hope to share stories that will help us all to better understand who we are as Catholics and what we are doing as individual members of Christ's family.

In upcoming issues, we will focus on what's going on in the Blessed Sacrament community, and how those activities and events are changing hearts and minds and helping parishioners grow closer to Christ and each other. Each article will ultimately focus on Christ at work within our community through the stewardship way of life.

Our hope is that this newsletter will be a successful means for ongoing education and formation in our faith, and I pray it will be a vehicle through which you are informed and inspired to become more actively involved in the life of Christ and the parish.

Another way I hope to improve our parish's communication efforts is through a comprehensive parish survey that will be conducted in spring 2019. Through the survey, I want to hear from you regarding our parish and its future. A survey will be mailed to each home, and then I will ask you to take the time to fill it out

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AUGUST 2018

WHAT DOES STEWARDSHIP MEAN?

What comes to mind when you hear the word “stewardship”?

Do you think of it as just another way to talk about money? Do you quickly dismiss it as a notion that has nothing to do with being Catholic?

Stewardship is actually a concept that is Scripturally based, and is absolutely vital to our life as Catholics. God tells us, in the very first book of the Old Testament, “Be fertile and multiply. Fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air and all the living things that move on the earth” (Gen 1:28).

What does that mean to us today? It simply means that God is telling us, “This is yours, so take care of it.” One of the first things God tells us to do is to be good stewards of the gifts He has entrusted to us!

The Old Testament is not the only place where we can find references to stewardship. Indeed, of the 36 parables in the New Testament, more than half of them deal with time, talent, possessions, or money. Therefore, if Jesus spoke of stewardship that much, it should be a very important part of our lives!

As Catholics, we refer to the three facets of stewardship as “time, talent, and treasure.” Although these are three concrete ways to express and measure stewardship, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops tells us that stewardship is part of discipleship. Stewardship is a way of responding to God’s call in every aspect of our lives.

The Scriptures and Church traditions teach us one important point that cannot be overstated —

that stewardship is primarily based on our need to give in gratitude, not on the Church’s need to receive. Of course, both the Catholic Church and our particular parish will always need money. However, we are not asked to give simply to defray costs and fund charitable programs. We are instead asked to remember our *need* to gratefully return a portion of our time, talent, and treasure to God, recognizing all that He has given to us.

It is important to remember that stewardship is a way of life, and not a program. True Catholic stewardship involves an ongoing call to live as followers of Christ. It takes time to find and define personal goals. You can begin by examining your personal commitments to the parish. How do you live your faith in your daily life with your family and friends? How much time do you spend in daily prayer, going to Mass or being involved in parish ministries and activities? What percentage of your income should you give back to God every week? What talents do you have that could be used to strengthen our parish family?

The coming months will see us increasing and intensifying our education and communication on stewardship. We will be developing a better understanding of how stewardship is a way of responding to God’s call to discipleship. And with God’s help, changes will occur in each of our hearts as we devote ourselves to a stewardship renewal within our parish. Examine how you are currently responding to God’s call to stewardship. If God called you home tomorrow, would He proclaim, “Well done, my good and faithful servant”?

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BACK TO SCHOOL:

BUILDING UPON OUR PAST SUCCESSES AT BLESSED SACRAMENT

Pope Francis once said, “The mission of schools is to develop a sense of truth, of what is good and beautiful. And this occurs through a rich path made up of many ingredients.” With its mission of educating young men and women in the Christian faith, Blessed Sacrament School strives to embody the Holy Father’s words, forming future leaders of our community and Church by providing these key “ingredients.”

“As a Catholic school, we get the unique opportunity to educate the whole child,” Principal Dan Steffen says. “Unlike our public school cohorts, we have the ability to discuss the faith regularly and why it’s important — to discuss humanity in the context of morality and why it’s important to the world, rather than sticking to strictly educational facts.”

With his grandfather attending Blessed Sacrament School in the 1930s and his father in the 1960s, Mr. Steffen has personally experienced the lasting benefits of Catholic education. And though he never attended the school himself as a student, Mr. Steffen was eager to give back professionally to the faith community which impacted his family’s life so greatly.

“I never went to school here myself, but I got to come here three years ago as Vice Principal and give back to the community which really set my family up for success,” Mr. Steffen says. “Keeping my family’s own history in mind really motivates me in my job — it inspires me to continue making this school a great success that will positively impact other families.”

Now beginning his first term as Principal, Mr. Steffen is eager to build upon the success and values of our past, continuing to work with the parish to foster the whole child in collaboration with our parents. It’s this “direct connection between the parish and families,” Mr. Steffen says, which enables the school to become a unique tool for evangelization.



One of the things that make Blessed Sacrament School so unique, says new Principal Dan Steffen, is the school’s ability to “educate the whole child.”

“I believe that part of our job of evangelization is spreading the faith — to explain to our kids what it is that we believe and why we believe it,” Mr. Steffen says. “The kids, of course, are oftentimes learning this already on the weekends by going to Mass with their families. But the school allows us to continue that work. It gives us more access to the formation and development of kids — spiritually,

emotionally and academically. This, in turn, continues their exposure to high quality faith formation.”

As a means of emphasizing the centrality of faith formation to our parish school, all Religion teachers will be presented to the parish on Sunday, Aug. 19 at the 9:30 a.m. Mass. Receiving a special blessing from the Pastor, this helps remind catechists of their great entrustment in forming our parish youth.

“I think this is just another way to show the parish community that the Religion program of the school is an extension of parish ministry,” Mr. Steffen says. “It reminds all parishioners, whether they have kids here or not, and also reminds our teachers that they are fulfilling an important role in the parish.”

Scheduled just before the school’s official start-up date on Tuesday, Aug. 21, Catechetical Sunday is a great way to remind us all of our school’s vital importance to the faith community. That’s why we encourage all parishioners to get involved and to support the school this year through their prayers, volunteering or financial support.

“We just really encourage parishioners to get involved, showing up to our various events and volunteering where they can,” Mr. Steffen says. “We’re also just excited for this new school year, staying focused on the principles that have always made us a great Catholic school while also exploring ways to further grow and take our school to the next step.”

To get involved in or to learn more about Blessed Sacrament School, please call the school office at 859-331-3062.

BLESSED SACRAMENT'S URBAN MISSION PROJECT



While we have an increasing proliferation of mission trip opportunities abroad, we also have community members in need here in Kentucky — and an opportunity to serve them.

“Whether they are 10,000 miles away or 10 miles away, they are our brothers and sisters in need,” says Jay Thamann. “The need may not be as great here as it is in foreign countries, but those who can’t travel can go with their families and help others at home.”

Blessed Sacrament’s Urban Mission Project offers faith community members the infrastructure to do precisely that — serve others right here at home.

This mission grew out of our outreach to our sister parish, St. Paul’s Catholic Church in McKee, Ky., which began 15 years ago when Dave Meyer visited Jackson County with Jay. Jay was already involved with a Christmas program there that brought gifts to families in need during the holiday season.

“I think the Holy Spirit was working through both of us, and we put our heads together,” Dave says. “I wanted us to be more than sister parishes on paper, and to be sister parishes in reality and really get involved in the lives of the people there.”

In 2004, Dave and Jay led a mission trip to McKee, and volunteers stayed locally for a week while building and rehabilitating houses. They constructed wheelchair ramps for homebound individuals, replaced rotting floors and installed new windows and siding.

The mission trips continued annually, but when the only hotel in the county was torn down last year, Jay and Dave decided to look for opportunities to put their skills to work helping others closer to home. They established a partnership with HONK — Housing Opportunities of Northern Kentucky — an organization with which Jay was already familiar.

ECT SERVES OTHERS IN NEED “HERE AT HOME”

“HONK is a non-profit organization with the mission ‘to help members of the Northern Kentucky community to realize the American dream of home ownership by providing affordable housing solutions,’” Jay says. “They teach people to be homeowners.”

HONK builds new homes or rebuilds foreclosed homes and relies heavily on volunteer labor to prepare the houses for community members to lease-to-own them.

This year, over 40 volunteers from Blessed Sacrament participated in a one-week blitz and performed over 850 hours of volunteer labor.

“The volunteers stayed at their own homes and drove in every morning to work for about eight hours,” Jay says. “We provided water, Gatorade and lunch, and also offered a dinner in the evenings.”

This community project brings together parishioners from 5 to 75 years old in the common mission of service. Entire families worked side by side in this opportunity to put the Corporal Works of Mercy into action.

“Blessed Sacrament is a large parish, and my wife and I don’t necessarily know all the parishioners who attend the other Masses,” Jay says. “This was a chance to work together. It was beautiful to see mothers and fathers working with their children.”

There are so many ways to live our faith through Blessed Sacrament’s Urban Mission Project. All are welcome to learn more about this local mission to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

“You can help by sharing your time, talent, and treasure — but also by praying,” Jay says. “Look at the photos. There is a tremendous need here.”



If you would like more information about Blessed Sacrament’s Urban Mission Project, please reach out to Jay Thamann at jaythamann@yahoo.com or 859-380-1849, or visit HONK’s website at honkhomes.org.

BILL MILLER REFLECTS ON A

At age 2, parishioner Bill Miller was brought to live at the St. John's Orphans Society, known today as the Diocesan Catholic Children's Home. His upbringing there, under the care of the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery, shaped the man of faith and service that Bill is today.

Last month, his lifetime of service was celebrated by the entire Fort Mitchell community when Bill served as the grand marshal of the Fourth of July parade.

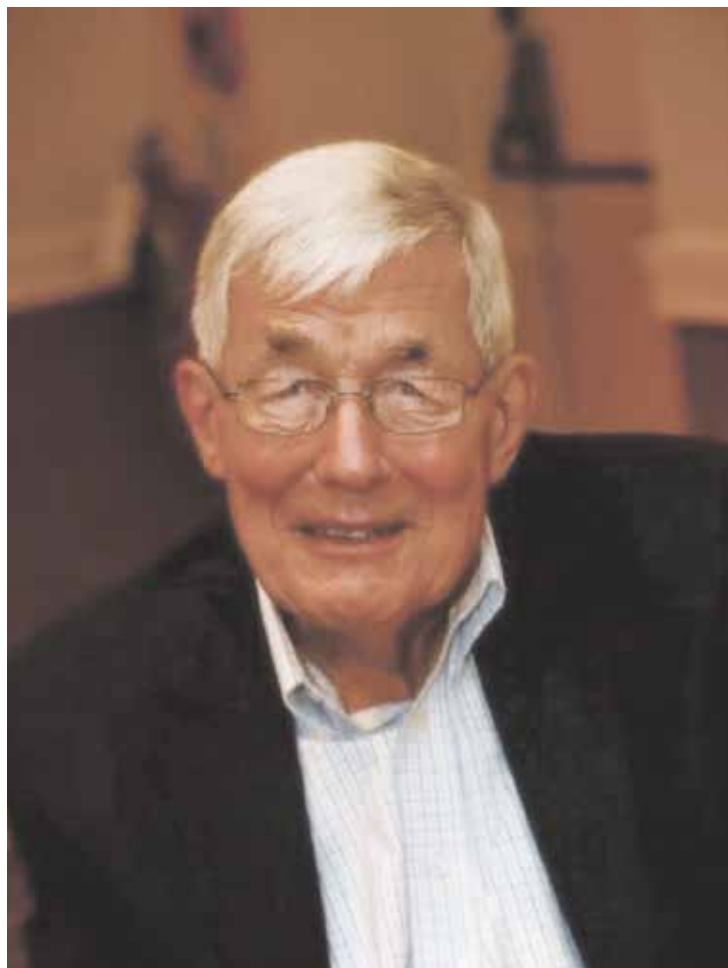
"The mayor called me some time back and told me the city council had decided I would be a good candidate for grand marshal, and I said I would be honored," Bill says. "I think the parade is great — I always go up and enjoy it, and lots of people come out."

Reflecting on his childhood at the children's home, Bill credits the Benedictine Sisters with instilling in him a foundation in the faith and a strong sense of discipline that served him well when he graduated high school and enlisted in the Air Force.

"The sisters were good and kind to us, and yet they were also strict," he says. "I think it helped me going into the service. I had no problem adjusting to military life. As I tell my children, I still [at age 88] scrub the floors."

Returning from his service in the Korean War, Bill found that between his experiences in the children's home and in the military, he had learned to work well with all different kinds of people. To this day, he considers himself a "people person" who greatly enjoys interacting with others.

A chance encounter shortly after his return from the service led Bill to a job as bookkeeper and salesman at the Ray Lammers Music House in downtown Cincinnati. It was then that he also met and married his wife, Ruth. Ruth passed away in 2012, just two days shy of the couple's 57th wedding anniversary.



"I pray every night to the Good Lord to thank Him for everyone he sent into my life, and that my mother and father gave me life," says Bill Miller.

Looking back on the many years he spent serving various charitable organizations, Bill realizes that Ruth's love and support made it all possible.

"When I was first elected as Financial Secretary to the Board of Directors at the orphanage [Diocesan Catholic Children's Home], I kept the books at home," he says. "I couldn't have done it if it weren't for my wife, Ruth, and her understanding. Her father and brother had been



LIFE OF FAITH AND SERVICE

board members, and our nephew has been, so our whole family has been involved there.”

Bill’s role as Financial Secretary ended up paving the way for his eventual hire as business manager of the children’s home. Accepting the position — and the substantial pay cut that came with it — was a leap of faith for the family. Not long after, however, Bill was offered another paid position on the Board of Directors of a local savings and loan company.

“This is how the Good Lord works,” Bill says. “When the Lord closes one door, He opens a window, and then another one. And He sure did in that instance, because the extra income helped us.”

Bill and Ruth raised their four children in the Church, sending them to Catholic schools and teaching them the importance of community service. Once a year, the children’s home held an annual fundraiser festival, and Bill would bring the 60 raffle baskets home for his family to assemble together. Today, all of the Miller children remain strong in the faith, which is now being passed down to Bill’s eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Bill has long felt blessed by his wonderful family, and recently, he has been thankful to have discovered the identity of his biological parents. After exploring his genealogy through Ancestry.com at the encouragement of his granddaughter, Bill reconnected with some distant cousins who were able to help him learn about his biological parents.

“I met [with my cousins] about a year ago, and just last month we went to Lexington and visited the grave site of the parents I never knew,” Bill says. “So, that’s another chapter for me that’s pretty well finished. I pray every night to the Good Lord to thank Him for everyone he sent into my life, and that my mother and father gave me life.”

In the 60 years he has been a parishioner at

“The Lord is never outdone in generosity. I feel very strongly about that. We just need to acknowledge that all the gifts we have — everything we have — is of the Good Lord. I always say to Him, ‘Nothing is of myself, it is all through You and of You.’” — Bill Miller

Blessed Sacrament, Bill has served the church in numerous ways, including spending time on the Parish Council, the Christ Renews His Parish team, and as a lector. Even now, Bill continues to be a fixture at our parish, regularly attending the 6:30 a.m. weekday Mass, serving with the Bereavement Committee and the St. Vincent de Paul Conference, participating as a Eucharistic Minister, and visiting patients as a pastoral chaplain with St. Elizabeth Healthcare.

The strong sense of faith and service that was instilled in Bill from an early age has certainly stayed with him all of his days. Reflecting back over the years, Bill sees his service to our parish and local community as an expression of his gratitude for the many blessings he has received.

“The Lord is never outdone in generosity,” he says. “I feel very strongly about that. We just need to acknowledge that all the gifts we have — everything we have — is of the Good Lord. I always say to Him, ‘Nothing is of myself, it is all through You and of You.’”

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New Parish Stewardship Newsletter *continued from front cover*

and return it as soon as possible. Your input will be very important, and it will give the Pastoral Council and me a better understanding of your thoughts about our parish.

This fall, we will conduct our Annual Stewardship Renewal. The Renewal is the time each year when we ask each other to re-prioritize the way we use God's gifts in the Church. It is the time we write down how we will become more devoted to Christ over the next year with our commitments of **time** (using my time on earth wisely; making time for personal prayer, family prayer, and quality time with friends and loved ones); **talent** (using God-given gifts to strengthen the Church through service to parish ministries and other activities), and **treasure** (the wise and just management of my financial resources; giving a proportionate amount of my income to the parish).

As we strive to develop stewardship as a way of life at Blessed Sacrament, the support and involvement of each individual parishioner is necessary to sustain the life of our parish. All of you have a place here, and all of you have a role to fill in the life of the parish as we live our lives as disciples of Christ.

May the Holy Spirit renew and refresh all of us as we work together to build our parish family through the use of our time, talent and treasure.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Daniel Vogelpohl
Pastor

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 4 p.m. | **Sunday:** 8, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. | **Weekdays:** Monday-Friday, 6:30 a.m. and 10 a.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.
Holy Days: 7 p.m. (prior day Vigil, excluding All Saints Day) 6:30 & 10 a.m.

Eucharistic Exposition: Wednesdays following Mass — Benediction to close exposition: 6:15 p.m.

SACRAMENTAL RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 2:30-3:30 p.m. | **Thursday before First Friday:** 10:30 a.m. | **Third Tuesday:** 6:30-7:30 p.m.