

Blessed SACRAMENT

BECOMING STEWARDS IN COMMUNITY

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THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE *LEADING THE WAY TO THE HEART OF DISCIPLESHIP*

Stewardship isn't limited to a single event or ministry — it's not about giving any specific amount or being involved in any set number of things. As Director of Religious Education Rosanne Thomas says, stewardship is about actively living out discipleship and doing our part to spread the Kingdom of God here on earth.

"We are each stewards — not owners or observers," Rosanne says. "We're not just here to be here, but are actually charged with the stewardship of everything here at the parish — from catechesis, to liturgy, to the funds that we use to maintain our campus and beautiful church. It's our job to make sure all of these things are being used for God and His purposes."

Rosanne says this is the "central message" of Blessed Sacrament's Stewardship Committee. Formed last year, the committee exists to model and encourage the stewardship lifestyle at our parish. Referring to stewardship as the "heart of discipleship," Rosanne and her fellow committee members hope to instill a spirit of stewardship in our parish ministries and the lives of parishioners.

"If we are going to live up to our calling to make disciples of all men, we need to first make stewards," Rosanne says. "Ultimately, that's why we are each here — to build the Kingdom."

Stewardship Committee members work to share this stewardship message in a variety of ways, including the Stewardship Retreat held Sept. 21. At the retreat,



Members of the Stewardship Committee along with the spring Stewardship Retreat leader, Deacon Denis Corbin, and our pastor, Fr. Dan Vogelpohl.

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GOOD STEWARDSHIP OF OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

When we are talking about the idea of stewardship and how we care for the tools and gifts we have been given, it is not often that we stop to have a conversation about how we are caring for and using the gift of social media to positively spread Gospel values. However, this is an appropriate topic for us to consider when we are talking about the many young people, as well as adults, who gather online on a frequent basis. Therefore, it is important for us to think about how we are using the amazing gifts of technology.

If you are frequently online — especially on Pinterest — there is a popular acronym that you may have already come across. While it is used in many different contexts, it seems very appropriate to follow as we find ourselves posting statuses and pictures on various social media sites. The acronym is T.H.I.N.K., and it invites us to consider what we are saying and sharing, and whether or not it should be said!

Is what we are posting:

True? Are we sharing factual information or a rumor that we heard, and if we think our information is factual, what is our source? Is it trustworthy?

Helpful? Is the information we are sharing something that can be useful to another person? We don't need to over-examine all of our content to consider its "educational factor," but is the content we are posting

going to help someone learn about us, learn about a place or an activity, think about the world, reflect on life, engage us in laughter, and so forth?

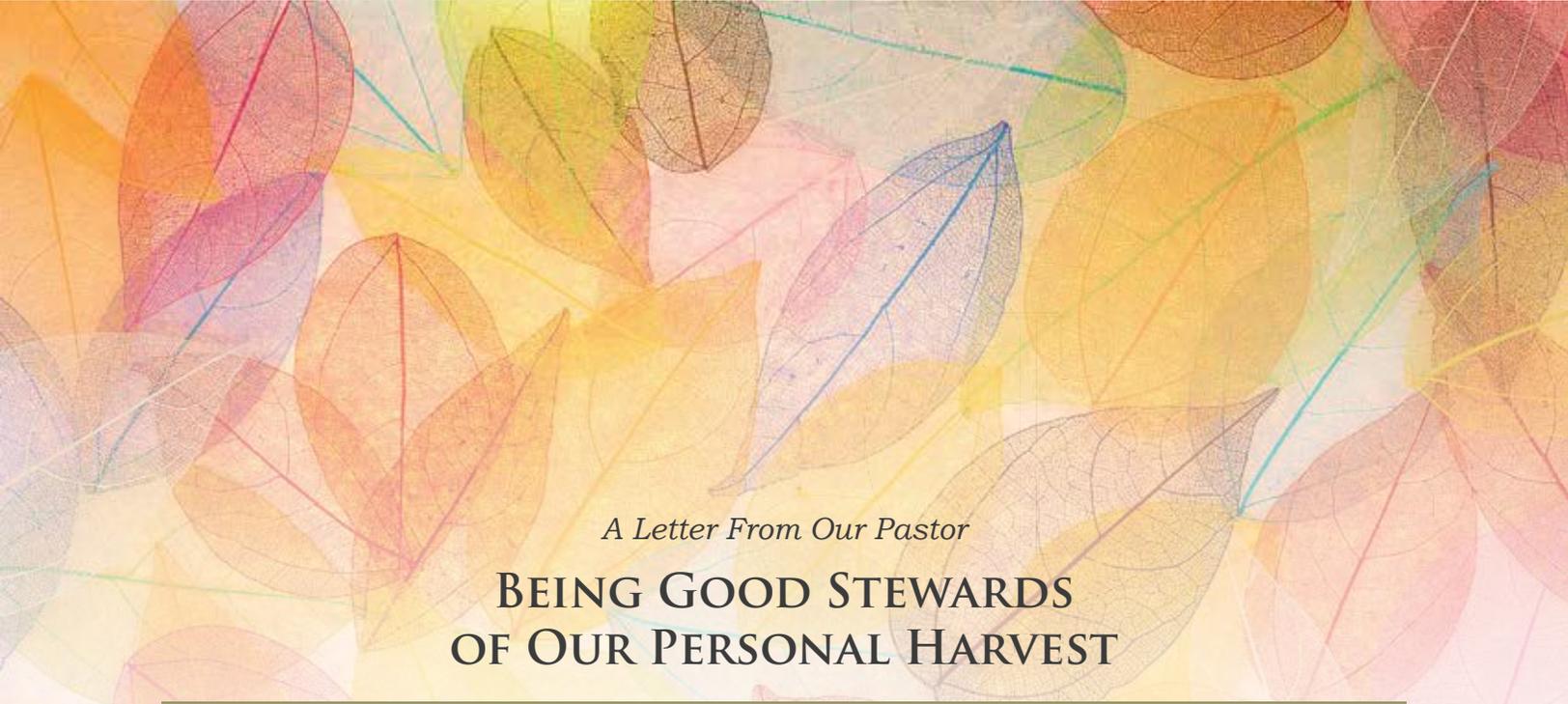
Inspirational? There is certainly no requirement to be a poet or an artist, but social media has become a wonderful outlet for positive self-expression. "Positive" is the key word — are we posting to inspire others about the good in our world, or are we posting to cut someone down or to simply rant?

Nice? Have we considered the feelings of others when we include them in a status or post a picture of them? Will they be embarrassed? Are we using social media to humiliate and intimidate others, or are we using it to try to better the world and the lives of others?

Kind? What a great tool to compliment, show gratitude, and build the self-esteem of those you care about!

People often speak of social media in a negative way because of the content they see posted. T.H.I.N.K. is a great way for us to remind ourselves that we can be good stewards of our own social media use. A major part of living out the Gospel has to do with the positive way we approach this life and bring God's light and love to others — and we can do just that by sharing an uplifting status on Facebook, a Tweet of gratitude to a friend, or a beautiful image of God's inspiring creation on Instagram. What a great way to build the Kingdom of God!





A Letter From Our Pastor

BEING GOOD STEWARDS OF OUR PERSONAL HARVEST

Dear Parishioners,

In the United States, October is the month that brings the completion of the harvest. Although many Americans live in urban areas and seldom ever see a farm, the foods we all eat — fruits and vegetables, meats, milk, and the grain for our bread — come from farms and ranches across America and around the world.

Some of us may feel completely detached from farm life and think that the harvest has little to do with us, but we are all connected with agriculture more closely than we realize. The success of the harvest affects the prices we pay — and if the harvest were to fail completely, there would soon be nothing available to put on our grocery shelves.

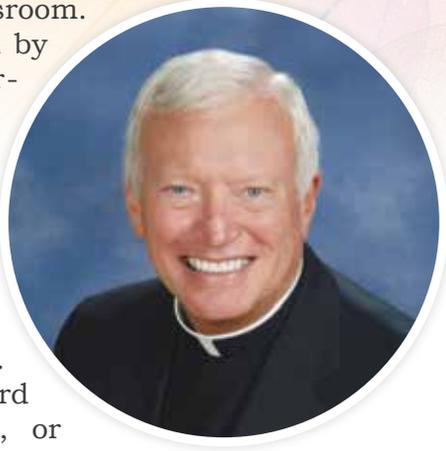
In the Old Testament world, most people were farmers, and the Israelites were to bring offerings to God from the harvest of their fields and flocks. The success of the harvest directly affected their wellbeing during the next year. At their agricultural festivals, “the measure of your own voluntary offering which you will give shall be in proportion to the blessing the Lord, your God, has given you” (Dt 16:10) they were told.

The same holds true for us. We may not have a harvest of fruits or grains, but we do receive a return for our own labor, whether it is in a factory,

an office or a classroom. We are also invited by God to return a portion to Him for His glory and our own spiritual welfare, in proportion to the blessings we have received.

It’s ultimately a choice we make. Are we going to hoard everything we get, or are we going to give back to God a portion of what He gives us? When we give back to God, will we return just what’s left over after everything else is paid, or will our gifts have a higher priority? Are we, as stewards, going to return the first fruits, rather than the leftovers, to God? What choice will you make?

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Rev. Daniel J. Vogelpohl
Rev. Daniel J. Vogelpohl
Pastor

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS *A Fi*

Setting up the nursery. Installing the car seat. Stocking up on diapers.

The to-do list as you prepare for a new baby can be exciting and exhausting. Sometimes, in the midst of washing tiny clothes, writing shower thank you notes, and choosing a name, it can be easy to forget the most important thing that a Catholic parent will do for your child.

“Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life,” *the Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us (CCC 1213).

The Church always has taught the necessity of Baptism for salvation — that is, the sacramen-

tal welcome into heaven. It is the call and duty of Catholic parents to make every effort to aid their children in experiencing a relationship with Christ here on earth, as well as for eternity in heaven.

Baptism is the first step in this journey.

In order to help Catholic parents prepare for this joyous occasion, as well as for a life of Christian parenthood, Blessed Sacrament asks those who plan to have their child baptized to attend our Baptism Preparation Class.

As parishioners and parents of six children, Bill and Jessica Purtell have coordinated our Baptism Preparation ministry for nearly a decade. The



Bill and Jessica Purtell, at the Baptism of their youngest son, Samuel, three years ago. Bill and Jessica coordinate the Baptism Preparation ministry at Blessed Sacrament.



First Step for Catholic Parenthood

“Blessed Sacrament is one of those family parishes where there’s always kids, so it’s always a joy to have a constant flow of baptisms. It adds to the vibrancy and life of the parish.”

— BAPTISM PREPARATION MINISTRY CO-COORDINATOR BILL PURTELL

couple loves the opportunity to walk alongside new parents who take this momentous step in their own faith and, especially, in the faith of their new child.

“The class makes it real to the parents because now they’re responsible for the life and soul of somebody else,” says Bill, “We hit the message of grace and joy over and over again. Your kids get the grace, everybody gets the joy. You’re building the Church.”

The class is designed to help parents understand the signs and significance of the Sacrament of Baptism, as well as the importance of the commitment they are making — to raise their child in the faith.

“You may have no idea what you’re doing; we had no idea what we were doing, but God equips us to do it and we give them some easy practical things to build on,” says Bill, “We tell them what we do in our household to give them an example of what it looks like.”

For some parents, not only is the class a reminder of the beauty of the sacrament, but it also serves as an invitation to return to practicing their faith in an active way.

“We explain to the parents that Baptism changes you, because now you’re making decisions for your child about how they can live their best life, in the love and grace of God,” says Bill, “We have this dialogue-style presentation, asking them, ‘Why are you bringing your child for Baptism?’ You get the

range of answers, from ‘My grandma’s making me,’ to ‘It’s just what you do in the family,’ to ‘I read in the *Catechism* it’s sacramental grace, we’re signing our kid up for that!’ Occasionally you get parents of a six-year-old who are changing their lives and bringing their family into the fold (of the Church).”

“It’s a good opportunity for parents to have to vocalize why they’re doing this,” Bill adds, “And it’s nice for the new parents to be able to actively explore their faith and be reaffirmed, at the parish level that we’re really excited that they’re doing this for their kids.”

Volunteers are always needed to help facilitate the classes, and Bill suggests that this might be the perfect ministry for a young couple, looking for a way to give back to the parish.

“The Baptism program is low intensive, easy to train, it’s a light commitment,” says Bill, “For a young couple who wants to get their feet wet in ministry, this is a great ministry.”

Bill encourages parents to prioritize the sacraments, especially baptism, and reminds that there’s nothing more important than sharing the faith with your children.

“Blessed Sacrament is one of those family parishes where there’s always kids, so it’s always a joy to have a constant flow of baptisms,” says Bill, “It adds to the vibrancy and life of the parish.”

For more information, upcoming dates, or to register for our Baptism Preparation class, or if you would like to learn more about volunteering to facilitate Baptism Preparation classes, please contact the parish office at 859-331-4302.

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THE STEWARDSHIP OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

He was born as Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone in Assisi, Italy, in 1181 or 1182 and died at the age of 44 in 1226. In spite of his given name, his father was traveling in France at the time of his birth, so he opted to call him Francesco, which means “the Frenchman.” We, of course, know him as St. Francis of Assisi, whose feast day we celebrate on Oct. 4. To say that he is among the most revered of our Catholic saints would be an understatement.

In their pastoral letter *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops states, “After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward.” Our Catholic saints also provide us examples of what it means to be a steward, but perhaps none more than St. Francis of Assisi. Like the Lord and His Blessed Mother, St. Francis exemplified stewardship.

We were reminded of that fact when our Holy Father chose the name Francis. The pope explained his choice in this way: “For me he [Francis] is the man of poverty, the man of peace, the man who loves and safeguards Creation. He is a man who gives us this spirit of peace.” From the time he was a boy, Francis recognized that he was gifted — he also understood that he needed to put his gifts at the service of God and others. One of his followers, Brother Leo, was fond of telling that he could hear Francis praying at night, and that St. Francis used the same prayer over and over. It was, “Oh God, Who are You, and who am I?”

Striving to come to an understanding of his relationship with God, and his role as a disciple of the Lord, St. Francis tried to rid himself of all the things that might prevent him from discovering his role in the Kingdom. Early on, he embraced poverty as a way of life. By eschewing possessions, Francis maintained that his voluntary poverty gave him freedom, freedom from owing anyone other than God, and thus giving him the complete freedom to serve God.

We speak of the Four Pillars of Stewardship — Prayer, Hospitality, Formation and Service. The life St. Francis embraced and the life he lived can



almost be defined by those pillars. Francis and the community he developed did not accept money — they worked for enough food to eat for that day, or for water, or for a place to sleep. His example coerces us to ask, “Are there possessions that restrict us, that hinder our ability to be a disciple?”

St. Francis dedicated his entire life to imitating the life of Christ and to carrying out the work of the Lord as he, Francis, perceived Christ would do it. Of course, St. Francis had ultimate love of the Eucharist, and great respect for the priests

who carried out this sacrament. As stated, poverty became a way of life for him. In fact, in his last written work, *The Testament*, Francis stated that personal and corporate poverty were essential as the lifestyle for the members of his Order.

Francis was a steward of all creation. He believed that nature and what it represented was the “mirror of God.” Most representations we see of Francis have animals with him and surrounding him. He called all creatures his “sisters” and “brothers.” He had particular love of birds, and was known to preach to them. As a steward and a disciple of Christ, St. Francis viewed all people with love and respect. He said, “How can I be a friend of Christ if I do not cherish those for whom Christ died?”

It is difficult to assess all the ways that St. Francis has influenced our faith and our practice of it. His desire to be Christ-like provides a stewardship example to us that makes clear to us how to move toward holiness. He had the humility of a complete servant. He once said, “If God can work through me, He can work through anyone.” Although the famous prayer attributed to St. Francis is most likely not a direct quote from him, it well represents his philosophy and his sense of stewardship. In part it states, “Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love, for it is in giving that we receive.” Through stewardship, we give — and what we receive in return, just as was the case with St. Francis of Assisi, is beyond our comprehension.

COFFEE AND DONUTS MINISTRY

FOSTERING FRIENDSHIP AND BUILDING COMMUNITY

Coffee and donuts aren't the first things that come to mind when we think about stewardship.

But if we consider there is a patron saint of coffee, St. Drogo, then we also may consider the community-building aspect of enjoying coffee and donuts with fellow parishioners!

Parishioners Paul and Mary Kay Markgraf can appreciate how a simple act of hospitality — like sharing coffee and donuts with others — can go a long way towards building up a parish family.

This appreciation on their part has resulted in the Markgrafs volunteering for this ministry for more than 20 years.

"It is important to gather and be able to visit with the parish community on a more personal level," Mary Kay says. "It is a time to catch-up and foster new friendships."

Coffee and Donuts is offered every Sunday during the school year after the 9 and 11 a.m. Masses in the undercroft. This simple act of hospitality and community building is all part of fostering a stewardship way of life at Blessed Sacrament. After all, if we want to get to know those sitting next to us at Sunday Mass, we need to make time for those important connections.

Paul and Mary Kay have led two generations through this ministry — first, their children, and

now, their young grandchildren.

"It is special to us to have our daughters and their children help us and hopefully continue the opportunity for service with our grandchildren," Mary Kay says. "It is a nice time for us to be with them, but hopefully it is a service that they can witness and continue as they get older."

In fact, Paul and Mary Kay started volunteering because it was an easy ministry at the time for their young family. Those in charge of the Coffee and Donuts Ministry arrive 30 minutes before Mass and stay 30 to 45 minutes after Mass — a minimal time commitment, to say the least.

When parishioners gather after Mass, Paul and Mary Kay perform a simple job — greeting people with a smile, collecting donations and cleaning up after everyone leaves. They also make sure parishioners who come after 11 a.m. Mass will have enough coffee prepared.

Paul and Mary Kay are bonafide veterans of our parish and this ministry, and the fact that Mary Kay even bought Paul a donut-shaped coffee cup should come as no surprise, and Paul proudly uses his special cup while enjoying a donut when they serve. According to Mary Kay, it "always gets comments."

But for the Markgrafs, the



Mary Kay and Paul Markgraf and their grandchildren host coffee and donuts

ministry means so much more than having a cup of joe and a sprinkle donut.

"We enjoy seeing the people of the parish that otherwise we would not have been able to converse with, and being able to catch-up with old friends," Mary Kay says.

Importantly, the Coffee and Donuts Ministry is also a way to connect with the priests when they are able to join. Often, school groups also use the time to set up a table to sell tickets or ask for volunteers.

"Our parish needs the parishioners to perform their stewardship, and it is a nice family-oriented way to do that," Mary Kay says. "We have enjoyed performing this ministry as a part of our stewardship and also to spend time together as a family."

Mary Kay and Paul are happy to help anyone who would like to be trained to serve in this ministry.

"This has been a very rewarding ministry for us," she says.

If you are interested in signing up to serve with the Coffee and Donuts Ministry, please visit <http://kev2.link/BSCdonuts>.

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The Stewardship Committee continued from front cover

parishioners were spiritually rejuvenated while learning more about how to embrace stewardship within their ministries and lives.

“We’re encouraging people, especially those involved in leadership or active in parish ministries, to come to these retreats,” Rosanne says.

The Stewardship Committee also coordinates stewardship witnesses after Masses, the annual Stewardship Renewal, and recently created the parish’s ministry guidebook as a resource to help parishioners discern the ways they are personally being called to live out stewardship. Then, when parishioners attend the Stewardship Fair on Nov. 9-10, they will hopefully have an idea of the ministries to which they feel called.

By no means “stewardship experts” themselves, Rosanne says that she and her fellow Stewardship Committee members are also in continuous formation — and this is the discipleship way. We are always called to go deeper in our relationship with the Lord, and there is always room for growth and improvement. This is just another thing that makes stewardship so exciting within our parish, for it further unites our community as we work together for a higher purpose.

“We are ourselves in the process of becoming, so we’re right there with everyone else learning,” Rosanne says. “Being on the committee, I think, has been a real growing experience for us all.”

If you would like to learn more about the Stewardship Committee and its future initiatives, please contact Rosanne Thomas at either 859-331-4302 or rthomas@bscky.org.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 4 p.m. | **Sunday:** 9:00 (with Children’s Liturgy) & 11:00 a.m. | **Weekdays:** Monday - Friday: 6:30 a.m., Monday - Saturday: 10:00 a.m. (When school is in session, Mass is at 8:45 a.m. instead of 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday & Friday)

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.