

ST. KATHARINE DREXEL...A STEWARDSHIP SAINT

Our very own patron saint is, without a doubt, among the strongest stewards of all time! Let's take a look at what we know about the stewardship life of St. Katharine Drexel.

She was born in Philadelphia, PA in 1858, the second child of Hannah and Francis Anthony Drexel. Hannah died when Katharine was five weeks old. In 1860 Francis married Emma Bouvier, and the couple welcomed a third child in 1863.

Francis and Emma taught their children that the gifts God gives are meant to be shared. They taught the importance of walking closely with Christ, and following his teachings in the gospels. Their home was opened to the poor two to three days per week, and they took every opportunity to make sure those that



had little were cared for. It was through this example that Katharine chose to follow Christ's call to serve society's most vulnerable, and impoverished. Early in her life, Katharine became concerned over the plight of Native Americans. During an overseas trip with her family, she had the privilege of entertaining a private audience with Pope Leo XIII. She expressed her concerns, and boldly asked him to send a missionary to help out. Pope Leo XIII challenged her to follow her heart and begin the mission, herself. And so she did.

Her father died in 1885 leaving behind a generous estate. Following the biblical practice of tithing, 10% was given to charity. The remainder was split between his three daughters who, according to the terms of the trust, were to live on the income produced by investing it. None of Katharine's inheritance would go toward supporting herself, or the sisters in her order.

In February 1891 Mother Katharine founded Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and professed her vow to care for the Native and African Americans in the western and southwestern United States. By 1942, the order
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INTRODUCING STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER GAIL NAMPEL



My name is Gail Nampel. I am a native of Beaver Dam being born and raised in St. Michael Catholic Church. I've been married for 34

years and have been blessed with two beautiful sons. I am a new grandmother, with an 18th month old grandson, and a beautiful granddaughter born July 5th.

I've been a lector in my Parish for as long as I can remember. When my kids attended UCPS, I was active as a member of the School Board, Secretary for the Scouts and Treasurer for the Band Guild.

I'm a relative newcomer to the St. Katharine

Drexel Stewardship Committee, having been invited to join last fall. Not really knowing what "stewardship" involved, I was a bit apprehensive, but agreed to attend a meeting to find out what I might be getting myself into. Little did I know that attending a single meeting would ignite such a fire for developing stewardship within our Parish. I am eager to help build a solid foundation for its success and look forward to sharing my excitement with our entire parish community.

Several members of our committee and our staff plan on attending the International Catholic Stewardship Conference being held in Chicago in October. Having attended a similar conference in Kansas last spring, I am confident we'll be bringing a wealth of information back with us. Stay tuned! Things are just beginning to take shape!

ST. KATHARINE 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

'Faith in Action'

If you are completely intimidated by today's technology, keep your eyes open for more information about an introductory course that will soon be offered at SKDP. "[Comfort with Computers](#)" will be an entry level approach to 1) navigating your computer 2) using email, 3) using the internet. Judy Wilson, our Parish IT Specialist, will share her knowledge, and aides will be available to provide one-on-one instruction. Watch the bulletin for more details.



EXCITING THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT ST. KATHARINE DREXEL PARISH

August is upon us and soon our focus will turn to preparing for our annual Time, Talent and Treasure harvest. Using the term 'harvest' might sound a little funny, but truly, this is what we do. We've spent the last year, or so, trying to broaden our understanding of the biblical concept of stewardship. So often we hear that term, and immediately associate it with asking for money. While money, or 'treasure', is definitely a part of stewardship, it is our intent to provide a complete understanding.

The Stewardship Committee of St. Katharine Drexel Parish has been under a bit of a makeover, lately. Much research and Divine guidance is helping us to develop an entirely new approach to an age-old initiative. We see St. Katharine Drexel Parish as a strong stewardship parish based on five pillars of success:

Hospitality ...welcome everyone...leave nobody behind! New Parishioners, long-time parishioners, estranged parishioners, visitors, those just entering the faith, whether by baptism or RCIA, etc. If they don't feel welcome...they're not going to come.

Prayer...nothing is possible without prayer. The parish family that prays together stays together.

Formation...constant effort to provide parishioners with what they need to help them understand.

Service...ensuring parishioners have the opportunities and outlets they need to become intentional disciples. Allow them the occasion to share their gifts with gratitude and generosity. Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life; generosity provides happiness beyond description.

Gratitude ...and while we are forming intentional disciples, and encouraging everyone to give back out of gratitude, we, as a parish, must express our gratitude for the wonderful contributions of each and every one of you! A church is nothing but a building. It takes a community of believers to make up a parish!

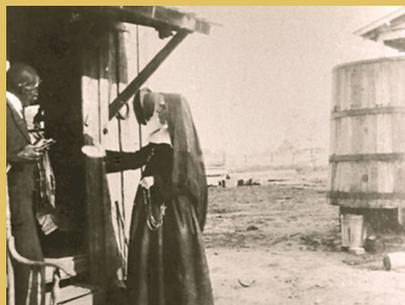
Watch the newsletter, bulletin and website for more information and exciting news in the upcoming months! We have several amazing things in the works! For instance, we will soon be offering a link to a [Spiritual Gifts Inventory](#). After answering a series of questions about your interests and strengths, you are provided your very own ranking in 23 different Charisms. Clicking on any of the Charisms on your ranking report will describe how you might give back using your specific talents. You might be surprised with the results! Armed with this insight, you'll be in a much better position to complete our time, talent and treasure commitment forms this fall.

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had a system of black Catholic schools in 13 states, plus 40 mission centers and 23 rural schools. By the time of her death in 1955, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament were responsible for establishing 50 missions in 16 states, including the very first African-American University, Xavier University in New Orleans. Even though she faced much adversity, Katharine never swayed in her

desire to help the less fortunate.

St. Katharine dedicated her life to serving others. She was a good steward of her time, which included devout prayer and adoration. Katharine understood that being a good steward also meant spending time listening to God so that she could follow His will for her life.



Katharine died on March 3, 1955. According to the terms of her father's trust, her inheritance ended upon her death. While this loss of financial support might have ended this mission, it did not. Through God's grace, and Katharine's inspiration the mission continues on to this day, and has grown to include 21 states as well as the impoverished people of Haiti.