

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam

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 Frédéric Ozanam Parish Markham

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26th Sunday IN ORDINARY TIME

“Which of the two did his father’s will?” They answered, “The first.”
Jesus said to them, “Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and
prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you.” - Mt 21:31



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Fr. Ricardo Davis  ext. 8
fr.rick@blessedoazanam.ca

LAY PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

laura.toniutti@blessedoazanam.ca  ext. 9

OFFICE INQUIRIES

office@blessedoazanam.ca  ext. 0

SACRAMENTAL INQUIRIES

firstcommunion@blessedoazanam.ca  ext. 7
confirmation@blessedoazanam.ca  ext. 6

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youth@blessedoazanam.ca  ext. 6

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WEEKEND MASS

We are so happy to be able to gather once again to celebrate Mass with you! Our current restriction is 158 parishioners at each Mass. Please register for mass at

blessedoazanam.ca/registering-for-mass/

St. Brother André Catholic High School
6160 - 16th Avenue, Markham
Saturday 5 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

CONFESSION

Saturday 4 - 4:45 p.m.
or anytime by appointment

Prayer

Lord, we thank you for your faithfulness to you word! You give your seeds to the sower.

Father, I thank you for all the seed that you have placed in my hands,
by your faith in me, may I show faith in you.

Lord thank you, for you are Lord over seasons. Give me wisdom to know when you sow.

May I never be swayed by emotions, worldly wisdom, or ungodly counsel.

Lord we honour you, for you multiply what you have sown. I pray that every seed sown
today across the world, multiplies.

We pray for every sower, fill them with hope.

Amen.

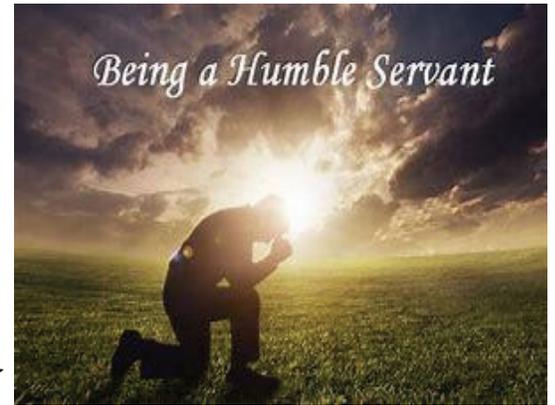
Stewardship Reflection

26th Sunday of Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ezekiel 18.25-28

2nd Reading: Philippians 2.1-11

Gospel: Matthew 21.28-32 – *The Parable of the Two Sons*



Seeking to Serve Rather than be Served

In today's second reading St. Paul offers us a radical way of living as Christians. He says that we should humbly, "regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others." While this is a challenging way of life, it is at the very heart of being a steward.

To fully live with other people's interests above our own we require a dramatic interior conversion. Our society propagates the importance of the unholy trinity of "me, myself and I". In order to begin this conversion, we need to turn to prayer and seek to imitate Jesus, the true steward. Jesus always sought to be a servant of others instead of demanding to be served. This was shown very poignantly when he washed the feet of the apostles. In this image, we see what it means to be a steward. To humble ourselves before others and seek their good before our own.

Imagine a parish community where everyone strives to serve their brothers and sisters. This service can be manifested in a variety of ways, whether it be simply going out of our way to say hello to a new family in the parish or supporting a family undergoing a major change or crises in their life. Let us constantly renew our commitment to being stewards and seek to serve rather than be served.

Summary

St. Paul challenges us to be true stewards as he says that we should "look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others." In order to begin this conversion, we need to turn to prayer as well as seek to imitate Jesus, who always sought to serve rather than be served. Let us strive to serve those in our parishes whether it be simply going out of our way to say hello to a new family or supporting a family undergoing a major change in their life, or any other way.



Archdiocese
of Toronto

Called to Be Stewards

What it means to receive and give

by Leisa Anslinger



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

I have asked that question throughout the United States and Canada, and in every group at least one brave person (often most of the people in the room) has exclaimed, “MONEY!” So imagine my surprise when I asked a group in Australia the question and the whole group in chorus replied, “AGRICULTURE!” These people have kept much more of the original meaning of the word “steward.” The steward is one who cares for the farm, livestock or vineyard of another. In fact, the *good* steward does not simply care for the valued property of another; the good steward nurtures it and brings it to yield with increase.

What does stewardship have to do with our lives, then?

When we really think about it, we know that all we are, everything we have, all we will ever be is given to us by God. That is quite a lot to take in, isn't it? Yet it is true.



Living as stewards means that we care for and nurture all that we have been given: our very selves, our

relationships, our material resources, every hour of every day we are alive. The good steward puts God first, nurtures loving relationships with family and friends, cares for one's health, lives simply rather than being consumed by material wealth, establishes a good balance between work and leisure, and so much more. These are all aspects of living a lifestyle of stewardship. When that nurturing “yields with increase,” we find abundance overflowing: our relationships flow out to draw others in; our material resources are shared willingly and with love; our care of our selves gives us physical and emotional energy with which to be productive. Recognizing that all is given to us by God, we nurture one more important thing: gratitude. In seeing that all is pure gift from God, we become grateful for the gifts we have been given.

We are created in God's image, designed to be living representations of God on earth. Our stewardship of our lives and resources is the way we bring God's love, care, attention, and mercy to the world.

The challenge: Stewardship requires us to trust in God's care for us. We must develop a sense of gratitude and be willing to be generous, as a response to all we have been given by God.

Let's get practical. Our daily decisions, from the way we use our time to the spirit with which we interact with others, take on new focus and meaning when we consider them from the perspective of stewardship. See the reverse of this sheet for practical ideas for growing as a good steward.

Let's be spiritual. As you can see, stewardship is also a deeply spiritual way of life. Remembering that everything is pure gift from God leads us to see that Jesus is our best teacher of what it means to live as a steward. The way in which we embrace stewardship is closely tied to the way we commit ourselves to being followers of Jesus Christ. We will be called to sacrifice for the sake of others, and to give as lavishly as

Our stewardship of our lives and resources is the way we bring God's love, care, attention and mercy to the world.

our loving God who has given us everything. And in this, our lives will be forever changed.



The Stewardship Project
www.CatholicLifeandFaith.com

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. ...By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (Jn 13:34a-35)



Practical Ways to Grow as Good Stewards

Think of stewardship as caring and sharing

When we think about all that Jesus teaches us about living, we might say that Christ's message is one of caring and sharing -- to care for our neighbors as ourselves, to share all we are and have, to stay focused on the Father's loving way. Here are some practical ways to put these principles into practice in our lives:

Stewardship of self: Begin and end each day with prayer; eat healthy foods in moderation; exercise regularly; get enough sleep; care for your emotional well-being. Remember that our physical, mental, emotional and spiritual being is a vessel for Christ's presence in our world. Caring for self is a sign that you embrace Jesus' call to follow him.

Stewardship of relationships: Take time to be attentive to family members each day; listen and watch for signs that a friend needs your care or concern; tend to the physical and emotional needs of neighbors and those who are poor, ill, or lonely; nurture new friendships by being welcoming; care for those who are aging by visiting regularly.

Stewardship of time and talent:

Be conscious of how much time you waste each day and commit to use your time more wisely; sacrifice time in service at home, in your parish, in your neighborhood or the home of a friend or family member, in your city or town; when possible, discover your talents through Living Your Strengths; recognize your talents as signs of God's grace in your life, and offer those talents intentionally in all aspects of your life.

Stewardship of material resources:

Make a conscious decision to use money wisely and share it generously; learn to distinguish wants from needs, and make progress in purchasing only when you need something; give to your parish and local services that care for those who have great need for material or financial help; make and keep a household budget; plan to eliminate credit card debt and to live within your means.

Stewardship of creation: Be mindful of wastefulness of water, soil, electricity, and carbon fuels; recycle whenever possible; plant a garden; avoid pesticides; enjoy the beauty of creation!



"As all this suggests, our individual lives as disciples and stewards must be seen in relation to God's larger purposes. ... Those who enter into Jesus' New Covenant find themselves growing in a union of minds and hearts with others who also have responded to God's call. They find their hearts and minds expanding to embrace all men and women, especially those in need, in a communion of mercy and love." (SDR, 34)



After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord -- and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet." (Jn 13:12-14)

How Are You a Good Steward?

We are already stewards, whether we are conscious of it or not. We will always have ways to grow as stewards, too, aspects of our lives in which we don't care or share as readily as we should. How are you already living as a good steward? What areas of your life need attention in order to grow as a steward in the coming year? Use this space to record your thoughts and your commitment for the future:

STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Loving God, I come to you in thanksgiving
knowing that all that I am and all that I have is a gift from you.

In faith and love, help me to do your will.

I am listening, Lord God.

Speak your words into the depth of my soul,
that I may hear you clearly.

I offer to you this day all the facets of my life,
whether it be at home, at work, or at school –
to be patient, to be merciful, to be generous, to be holy.

Give me the wisdom and insight
to understand your will for me

and the fervor to fulfill my good intentions.

I offer my gifts of time, talent, and possessions to you
as a true act of faith,

to reflect my love for you and my neighbour.

Help me to reach out to others as you, my God,

Have reached out to me.

Amen.

Prayer used with permission from Stewardship and Development Office, Archdiocese of Chicago.



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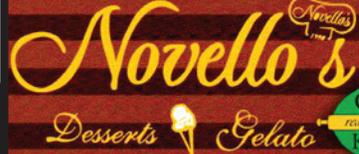
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