

# Parish Stewardship Update

## August 2003

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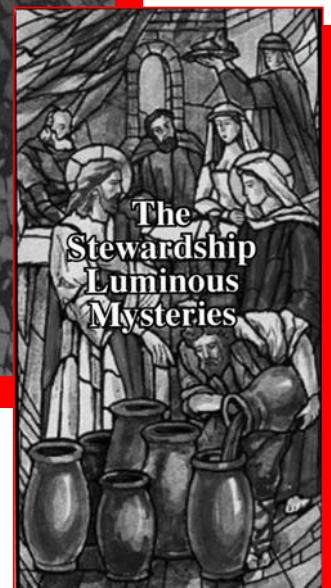
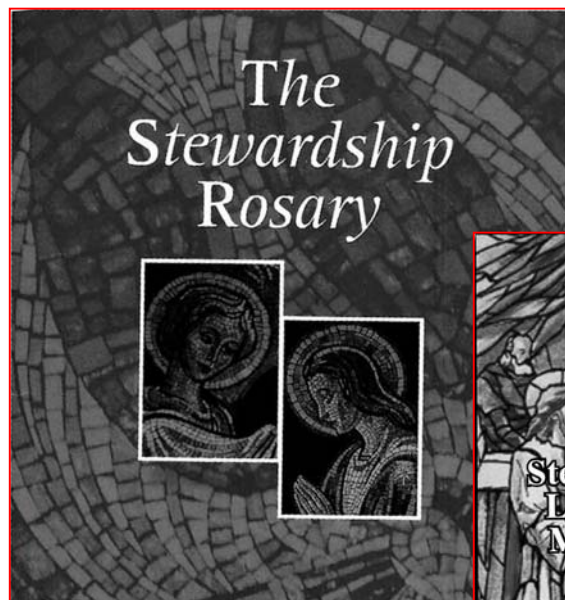
## Resources Abound

*Don't forget the little things*

How often have you searched for a great resource in print or video format? Did your search end in a frustrating comment similar to: "I just couldn't find that book at the bookstore" or "That video always seems to be rented at the video store." I encourage you to ask questions. Many times resources come across my desk and I file them in memory to think about later. Often when speaking to people around the Diocese, I find that those resources are exactly what is needed for their parish stewardship efforts. While many stewardship resources are published through the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops ([www.USCCB.org](http://www.USCCB.org)) and the International Catholic Stewardship Council ([www.catholicstewardship.org](http://www.catholicstewardship.org)), there are many other places to look for excellent resources. Many dioceses across the United States have Stewardship offices and have created materials for use in their parishes. Many parishes have taken the stewardship message to heart and have created great resources for their parishioners. Some of the resources are free of charge and others are available for purchase. The most important reminder is that all individuals, parishes, and dioceses that promote stewardship have resources available to you. Many creative ideas have come from a comment made at a gathering of people sharing ideas about how they practice stewardship. The little things are important.

One resource I would like to highlight this month is the booklet produced by ICSC entitled "The Stewardship Rosary." Currently there is a special summer discount on this booklet and it would be a great resource for anyone who prays the Rosary. Pastors, religious, families, Marian prayer groups, and others can learn more about stewardship through their praying of the Rosary. This booklet guides you through the prayer with a stewardship focus. For many Catholics, praying the Rosary would be considered a little thing or a habit of traditional prayer. What a wonderful thought to be able to understand that sharing our time through the little prayer habits is giving ourselves back to God one prayer at a time.

Through Labor Day, "The Stewardship Rosary" is available for \$1.99 each in any quantity. The regular price ranges from \$4 each to \$2.75 each in large quantity.



"The Stewardship Luminous Mysteries" now accompany each booklet ordered.

## Good Stewardship ...

### *In The Spirit Of Giving...*

This month I would like to focus on parents and all who support parents in any way.

Children have a way of tugging at their parents heartstrings and parents, as good stewards, have

a responsibility to teach and train their children in faith issues as well as in practical living issues.

Recently in our house one of the younger children came up to me and held up his arms and said, "Daddy, will you 'old me?" Certainly there are a litany of responses available from "not now, I'm busy doing (blank)" to "oh, you're getting too big" or some other verbal response. In reality simply picking up my child and holding him for a minute or two without any words let him know that I am there for him and that I love him. Once again it becomes the little things that teach us about stewardship.

While that is a great positive example, there is also a need to challenge and correct your children when they have not taken the appropriate action. Walking this fine line is difficult for any parent no matter how self confident they may be.

For those of you who support parents in their role, a simple comment about their response to their children, or a smiling nod when you recognize the challenges they are facing goes a long way to help the parents to be good stewards of their children. Your positive response also helps both parents and children to understand that they are part of a larger community that cares about them.

## Volunteer Opportunities

### **Make a Difference Day October 25, 2003**

Theme: A National Day to Help Others  
Make a Difference Day is a national community service effort designed to challenge and reward volunteers. More than one million citizens are committed to spending the fourth Saturday in October "making a difference" in their communities. For more information contact, 800-416-3824 or [www.makeadifferenceday.com](http://www.makeadifferenceday.com)

### **National Family Volunteer Day November 22, 2003**

Theme: My Family Matters-We  
**VOLUNTEER!**

The Points of Light launched the Family Matters initiative to encourage and engage families in community-oriented projects. The program rests on the powerful principle that a volunteering family benefits itself, the community, and the nation at large. For more information contact, Points of Light, 800-VOLUNTEER or [www.pointsoflight.org/familymatters.org](http://www.pointsoflight.org/familymatters.org)

### **National Youth Service Day April 16-18, 2004**

Theme: The Power of Youth Serving Youth  
National Youth Service Day has three primary goals: to recognize the year-round service and volunteering efforts of millions of young people nationwide; to recruit a new generation and cadre of citizens that are both participants and supporters of youth service organizations; and to promote young people as resources rather than problems. For more information contact: Youth Service America, 202-296-2992 Ext 34 or [www.ysa.org](http://www.ysa.org) or <http://www.youthserve.org/>