

Parish Stewardship Update

November 2002

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Saying Thank You!

Remembering simple stewardship efforts

Many of us have been taught about saying "please" and "thank you" when we were children. I know that as a parent, it is a constant battle to remind the children to remember, and say, those simple words of gratitude. Often we focus on the major stewardship efforts in trying to encourage one another to become more effective as disciples of Jesus Christ. Perhaps we can read the following story, sent from a friend in California, and realize that the little things can make a big difference.

St. Peter met a newly arrived soul in Heaven. The saint toured the soul around Heaven. Both of them walked side-by-side inside a large workroom filled with angels.

St. Peter stopped in front of the first section and said, "This is the Receiving Section. Here, all the petitions to God said in prayer are received". The soul looked at the section, and it was terribly busy with so many angels sorting out petitions written on voluminous paper sheets from all the people of the world.

They walked again until they reached the 2nd section, and St. Peter told the soul, "This is the Packaging and Delivery Section. Here, the graces and blessings the people asked for are packed and delivered to the persons who asked for them down on earth." The soul saw how busy it was. There were so

many angels working in that room, since so many blessings were being packed and delivered to Earth.

Finally at the farthest corner of the room, the soul stopped at the last section. To the surprise of the soul, only one angel stayed there idly, doing nothing. "This is the Acknowledging Section," St. Peter told the soul.

"How is it that, there is no work here?" inquired the soul.



"That's the sad thing," St. Peter answered. "After the people received the blessings they asked for, very few send their acknowledgments."

"How does one acknowledge God's blessing?"

"Simple," St. Peter answered. "Just say 'Thank you, Lord.'"

Let's remember to Thank the Lord for all the blessings we

have received and be good stewards of our prayer. All of the simple efforts make a difference.

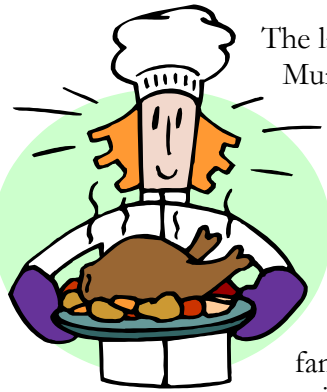
Good Stewardship ...

Recently I came in contact with a family that was extremely grateful for their parish community and friends. The mother was expecting a child and was very ill and the father had to go to work each day. A couple of friends from their parish heard about it and began asking a few other parishioners if they would be willing to help out by bringing a meal to the family. (I know that many parishes do this after the mom gives birth.) Most of those who were making the meals did not know the family but were willing to help out in a time of need.

In The Spirit Of Giving...

The parish community through the shared gifts from these families was living the Gospel through simple acts of hospitality. The family receiving the dinners was living the Gospel by accepting the support of their parish community.

Through this event and others like it that happen in parishes all around our diocese and dioceses around the country, the Gospel message of hospitality and supporting one another continues to be shared in simple acts of kindness. These acts are shared based on the faith that is present in those giving and those receiving.



The late Archbishop Thomas Murphy used to talk about gifts freely given with no strings attached and no expectations. These gifts of dinner were just that. No one expected anything in return. The family was actually surprised by the unconditional support offered by people who were “strangers.” The best words I could offer them were that of the Sunday Gospel from the last weekend in October when Jesus said, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

How are you living your faith? As we celebrate the feast of Thanksgiving this month let’s remember those who have been good stewardship examples to us and our families and let’s thank God for their generosity and their faithfulness.

Have a blessed and safe and

Happy Thanksgiving!

Did you notice?

The front of the newsletter has our new address and phone number. If you don’t want to search for it, here it is again:

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