

Parish Stewardship Update

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Helping Others and Searching For Gold

by Bob Pfundstein

Recently we have been working our way through the news, both devastating and hopeful, from friends, co-workers, family members and others who have personally been affected by the events in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania. I can't help but listen and reflect on the number of good stewards who have made the time and effort to help others that they have never met. As the stories circulate about the heroic efforts of police officers, fire fighters, and other rescue workers, we need to hear and share the good that is being done. We need to highlight those good stewards.

I was reviewing some materials and ran across the following story from the October 21, 1960 copy of the *Junior Catholic Messenger*.

The Stone in the Road

A man was traveling along a mountain road. It was a very narrow road. As he came around a curve he suddenly stopped. For in front of him was a very large rock.

"Now, look at that," he said. "Look at that big boulder right in the middle of the road! Why, you can hardly get past it." He sniffed and snorted and scowled and made angry noises. "Why doesn't someone take that big thing out of the way?"

He went around the big rock and continued on his way.

Many more travelers came that way. All of them did the same thing. They became angry because the big stone was in their way. But they all passed on and the stone remained.

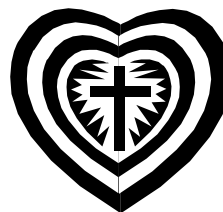
Then, one day, a young man came along the mountain road. "This will never do," he said. "That stone should be moved. And I will move it." And he did. He sent the big stone crashing down the mountain.

Then the man looked at the hole in the road where the stone had been. His eyes opened wide in great surprise. For there lay a bag of gold. On top of the bag was this sign:

"The world is filled with people who complain and are angry because things are not the way they would like. But they do nothing at all. They are like the people who will complain about this stone in the road. But the one who takes the trouble to move the stone will find this bag of gold."

As the physical rubble is removed from the different sites and workers truly take the trouble to move the stones, let us be hopeful for golden lives of survivors and prayerful for the golden lives lost and the families who are grieving.

As the days continue, we can begin to search for the gold that lies buried in our hearts, Our Lord Jesus Christ. We can help others by clearing the stones that block our path on our search for that gold.



**Parish Stewardship
Day 2001
featuring**

**Bishop
Morneau**



**Is coming
To**

**Christ the Teacher Parish
In DeKalb**

**Mark your calendar for
Friday November 2nd
Or
Saturday November 3rd**

Contact our office for additional registration forms.

NOTICE!

The International Catholic Stewardship Conference scheduled for September 16 – 19 was cancelled. To all those who were scheduled to attend, thanks for your support and we'll try again next year. To all of you who could not attend but are aware of the ideas and energy that we usually bring back from the conference, be patient with us as we will be gathering input from around the country through other avenues this year. Keep up the great work you are doing in your parishes and contact our office with any of your Parish Stewardship, Planned Giving, Diocesan Stewardship, Catholic Foundation, or other stewardship questions.

**Children's
Stewardship Ideas:**



The Cathedral of St. Peter included a Time & Talent form for children with their parish stewardship efforts this fall. This form was on the same size paper as the adult form and the Stewardship Commission felt this gave as much credibility to the children's time & talent as the adults. They also included a form specifically for the High School age members of the parish. Results are still coming in. For a copy or for more information regarding their efforts contact Kathee Thumm, Parish Volunteers Coordinator.

Good Stewardship ...



Includes sharing our resources and celebrations with family, friends, and neighbors. As we enter the fall season let's focus on all of the blessings, both small and large, that our God has given us this year. Let's also pray for those who have struggled with recognizing their gifts.

Send some of your parish or personal sharing stories so they can be published to inspire others.