

# Call to Stewardship

## Archdiocese of Newark

### Is God Calling you and getting a busy signal?

In today's world, it's very easy to lose sight of why we're really here. Maybe you are being called by God to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. If you take a moment to listen to your inner voice, Jesus will get through.

Answer His call—it will make His day and you will be eternally grateful you did! We have all been blessed with gifts of time and talent to share with one another. The joy and happiness that will come into your life when you work with others to build God's kingdom and serve your neighbor in need will bring you closer to Jesus.

Remember, all that we have and all that we are is a Gift from God. Being a good steward means living an active give and take relationship with God.

Peace, prayers & blessings,

*Lynn Gully* ☺

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MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!

### Upcoming Events

October 18, 2009 (Sunday)

Father Benedict Groeschel, CFR Tribute—Holy Family in Nutley. (see page 4)

October 24, 2009 (Saturday)

Annual Stewardship Day—Seton Hall University—9-12 noon.

Visit [www.rcan.org/stewardship](http://www.rcan.org/stewardship) to register or for more information.

Check this out!

Catholic Climate Covenant [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org)

Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Put your Catholic faith into action on climate change.

Summer 2009



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*Train children how to live,  
and when they are old they  
will not depart from it.  
Proverbs 22:6*



## American Express and the Archbishop's Annual Appeal

GivingExpress Online from American Express allows you to redeem American Express Membership Rewards points to make a donation to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. Each donation of 1,000 points equals a \$10.00.

Go to [www.americanexpress.com/give](http://www.americanexpress.com/give)

Click on the Donate Now tab. **Step 1**—Search for Organization—Nonprofit Name or Keywords—ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK. **Step 2**—Select an Organization—select ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK, Newark NJ 07104. **Step 3**—Donate - scroll down to Redeem Membership Rewards Points to make a Donation. Then scroll down to Designated Donation box at bottom of page and type ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL and your parish .

The AAA helps so many people and supports many wonderful programs throughout the Archdiocese of Newark.

So if you find yourself with extra points and want to make a difference please consider donating them to the AAA.



**GivingExpress Online from American Express connects you to important causes including the Archbishop's Annual Appeal (AAA).**

## Parish Ministry Guide

A Ministry Guide can be a great benefit to parish participation. The goal of the Ministry Guide is to educate parishioners about the many opportunities and also to encourage increased participation in the ministries, activities, and services of the parish. People tend to be more comfortable committing time and talent when they know exactly what is expected. The Ministry Guide accomplishes this goal. The guide can offer a very simple listing of the ministries with a brief description of each. Ideally the guide would describe the ministry, list the amount of time that will be necessary to fulfill the

commitment, and give the name of a contact person in the event the parishioner either wishes to serve or is in need of the service. The guide should be updated annually by the Stewardship Committee.

**Are you starting to think about your fall stewardship program. Now is the time to review your ministry guide.**

One benefit of a Ministry Guide is to highlight or list opportunities for participation by the children and youth of the parish. Notations can be made for ways a family

could be involved in the parish. The guide can be given to parishioners prior to or during parish stewardship renewal. Individual parishes can decide on the timing that seems to be best. This guide can also serve as an important addition to the materials given to new parishioners.

Please email or send a CD to me with the material you use to keep stewardship alive in your parish. We would like to share this material with all who attend Stewardship Day on October 24 at Seton Hall University.

### Stewardship

My church is composed of people like me.

I help make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am.

Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work, if I work.

It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, if I invite and bring them.

It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things.

Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my church to be.

## SCRIPTURAL REFLECTIONS ON STEWARDSHIP—BULLETIN MESSAGES

### July 5, 2009—14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"As the Lord spoke to me, the spirit entered me and set me on my feet, and I heard the one who was speaking say to me, 'Son of man, I am sending you...'" - Ezekiel 2:2-3*

God sends each of us to do some special work for Him. And, He gives us all the talents that we need to do that work. However, do we listen to God when He calls? Do we get up on our feet and give our time to do the work God asks of us? This is the basis for good stewardship.

### July 12, 2009—15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick – no food, no sack, no money in their belts." - Mark 6:8*

How different we are from the Apostles who took nothing when they ventured out to serve God. Today, we make our journey through life more difficult because of all the material baggage that we drag along. Yet, the more we can let go of, the freer we are to serve God with love and joy.

### July 19, 2009—16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." - Psalm 23:1*

Modern advertising tempts us to want so many things. Yet a faithful steward knows the difference between what he wants and what he needs. We can give generously when we trust that the Lord will provide for all of our true needs.

### July 26, 2009—17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" - John 6:9*

The miracle of the Loaves and Fishes is the only one of Our Lord's miracles which is recorded six times in the Gospel. It carries two important messages. First, no matter how little we have, we always have enough to share. Second, Christ can take our humble gifts and do great things with them if we are just willing to let Him.



### August 2, 2009—18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"Each day the people are to go out and gather their daily portion; thus will I test them, to see whether they follow my instructions or not." - Exodus 16:4*

God frowns upon it when we take or keep more than we need. When the Israelites gathered more than their daily portion of manna, that which they hoarded away became wormy and rotten. In the same way, God calls us today to be content with a fair portion and to be willing to share the rest.

### August 9, 2009—19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"Get up and eat, else the journey will be too long for you!" - 1 Kings 19:7*

Jesus knew that the stewardship journey would be difficult, so He gave us the nourishment of the Eucharist. When we take time to join our sacrifices with the sacrifice of the Mass, we find the strength to give and joy in our giving.

### August 16, 2009- 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"Watch carefully then how you live, not as foolish persons but as wise..." - Ephesians 5:15*

A wise person recognizes that all we have comes from God. A wise person thanks God every day for all His many blessings. A wise person realizes that God has blessed us for a reason and He wants us to be partners with Him in His work here on earth.

### August 23, 2009—21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"If it does not please you to serve the Lord, decide today whom you will serve...As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." - Joshua 24:15*

When we commit to serve the Lord, we must be willing to become a partner in the work of the Lord. A partner is a person who invests time, talent and treasure. If we say we serve God, we must actually do something!

### August 30, 2009—22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"Be doers of the word and not hearers only..." - James 1:22*

What do you do to live God's word? Do you share time and talent with your parish or those in need? Do you support the work of the Church with the fruits from your own work?



### September 6, 2009—23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?" - James 2:5*

What is more important – being rich in faith or rich in possessions? Society teaches us that possessions are most important. God teaches a different lesson. When we are rich in faith we know that material things really do not matter and we are more willing to share what we have.

### September 13, 2009—24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." - Mark 8:34*

When we truly believe that all we have is a gift from God, then we must be willing to deny ourselves some things so that we can share our blessings as God intended them to be shared.

### September 20, 2009—25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." - Mark 9:35*

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus teaches us through His words and through His life that we are called to serve one another. We can serve through our sacrifices of time, talent and treasure. Sacrifice is not a word that many people like to hear. We think it means that we must give up something that we want. However, the literal meaning of sacrifice is "to make holy," from the words "sacer" = sacred and "facere" = to make. In other words, we make our lives holy by giving up some of our time, talent and treasure in the service of God and His Church.

### September 27, 2009—26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward." - Mark 9:41*

Our Lord's comment about the simple gesture of giving a drink of water is a reminder of how Jesus taught that we would all be judged at the end of time. "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me." Matthew 25:35. Our service and sacrifice to our parish and community allows us to care for Jesus when He is hungry, thirsty, ill or in need.

## Father Benedict Groeschel, CFR Tribute

This year, Good Counsel is honored to plan the public celebration of Father Benedict's 50th Anniversary of Ordination. Please make the joy of this event complete by joining us on Sunday, October 18, 2009, at 3:30 p.m., Holy Family Church in Nutley, New Jersey. Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Apostolic Nuncio, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, among others, will celebrate a special Mass for Father Benedict. We hope you can join us.

Father Benedict is among the most widely-known American Catholic priests today because of his international EWTN-TV appearances and his best-selling books. His being

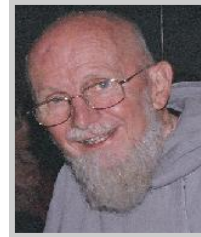
a part of the founding of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal and, thankfully, Good Counsel, are still only some of his many, many apostolic works. In the end, for Father Benedict, he is just a priest and this happy fact is what will be celebrated.

Good Counsel is also creating a Tribute Journal to include your greetings to Father Benedict.

Visit [www.goodcounselhomes.org](http://www.goodcounselhomes.org) for tribute journal and reception opportunities.

The sacrament of Holy Orders conferred on Father Benedict fifty years ago has been measured against the model of Christ ever

since, who by love made Himself the least, and the servant of all. RSVP and inquiries to Jim Schaffer, Good Counsel, 203-912-2802, [james\\_schaffer@goodcounselhomes.org](mailto:james_schaffer@goodcounselhomes.org)



Fr. Benedict Groeschel, CFR

## Fifth Grade Assignment

A fifth grade teacher asked her class to look at TV commercials and see if they could use them in some way to communicate ideas about God. Here are some of the results:

*God is like*

**BAYER ASPIRIN**

*He works miracles.*

*God is like*

**COKE**

*He's the real thing.*

*God is like*

**GENERAL ELECTRIC**

*He brings good things to life.*

## “I Came to Serve, Not to be Served”

“With these words, Jesus taught us the perfect way to challenge the values of the world and to copy his actions. Living and working in the modern competitive environment, it is easy for us to get caught up in “having more”, be it money, possessions or prestige. We have gadgets and services that spoil us by serving our every need for quick gratification. But Jesus encouraged us to challenge the easy ways of the world and look, instead, toward simplifying our lives, to look beyond our own needs and recognize that the divine spark that unites us as human beings is stronger than any outward appearance.

This countercultural aspect of our faith is evident every day and every week at St. John’s Church in downtown Newark. People displaced by economic injustice, weary of trying to make ends meet, lost in a strange new city, rejected or overlooked by the social service systems, or just hungry and alone, know they have a safe and welcoming haven in the courtyard of the oldest parish of New Jersey, near McCarter Highway and the business district of our Renaissance City. They come in every size, shape, color, age and ability, 500-700 on any given day. No one asks their income, their religion, or their affiliations. They are accepted simply as they are—in need of a good meal and a little peace of mind. On weekdays they come for a nutritious and delicious lunch. And, on Sundays, they come for worship and fellowship. St. John’s is also the only parish in the state that offers Mass in American Sign Language.

The congregants and consumers of St. John’s charity are not considered pitiful, broken individuals. In the eyes of those who serve them and in God’s eyes they are simply people with special needs, as in truth we all are. They are not served out of obligation, but in following the basic call to justice our Church professes in its social teaching. “Respect for the dignity of the hu-

man person” is the primary tenet of this teaching. At St. John’s, that principle underlies all the work the various staff members and liturgical ministers perform, from preparing and serving the meals to coordinating and staging religious events. You can see the joy and dedication in their faces as they fill plates in the kitchen or help people in wheelchairs approach the altar at Communion time. Without asking, each member of the staff and the congregation sees the needs of others and responds effortlessly with love and compassion. As in the days of the Old Testament, hospitality is a matter of life and death, spiritual health and physical survival.



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Stewardship means giving from our abundance, giving from the heart unconditionally. One can see true stewardship at St. John’s any time they visit. The sense of community is palpable, whether eating together on the picnic tables under the sun or signing the prayers of our faith in unison, hands and faces joined in commu-

nal praise. Those who have been overlooked or forgotten by others are not only welcomed at St. John’s, they are supported, encouraged and even celebrated as the unique children of God they are. Volunteers or paid staff, clergy or church members, all are serving each other selflessly at this parish. All are stewards of the gifts they have been given by God and share them willingly and joyfully with their “brothers and sisters” in Christ.

*“Lord, grant that I may not so much seek to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive...”*

*Prayer of St. Francis*

*by Deacon Thomas M. Smith, CSW  
Director, Archdiocesan Ministry with the Deaf*