



Stewardship -in-Action

The St. Mary & St. Anthony Newsletter

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Time-Talent-Treasure

2008: A New Beginning

Some of us begin this new year in hopeful anticipation of a better year than just experienced. Others of us begin this year of grace with anxiety and frustration. Whatever the case, we hope that we can make things in our lives "new". It is well to remember, as John reminds us in Revelation, that God continually makes things new. We are in good company when we make resolutions to make our new year truly new. To assist you in becoming a better steward (disciple) of Jesus here are some helpful stewardship resolutions for 2008.

Stewardship of Prayer: Resolve to strengthen your relationship with the Lord. Notice how often you pray and what hinders you from praying. Commit to short, daily prayer times.

Stewardship of Family: Resolve to set aside more time to stay connected with your family. Eat dinner together, schedule regular dates with your spouse, plan family outings, and go to Mass together.

Stewardship of Health: Resolve to get those medical and dental checkups. Adopt healthier eating habits. Add exercise and other physical activity to your daily routine.

Stewardship of Possessions: Resolve to possess a little more "lightly" this year. Consider ways you can reduce the amount of all the stuff you own. Distinguish between those items that are necessary and those that are considered luxurious and unnecessary.

Stewardship of the Parish Family: Resolve to serve your faith community in some way this year such as at liturgy, in the parish's outreach or education and formation efforts.

Stewardship of Money: Resolve to render sacred your annual budget. Reprioritize your financial goals to ensure that the Lord comes first in your spending. Take positive steps to improve your financial health.

Stewardship of Work: Resolve to be faithful to your daily, work-related tasks and offer them up to the Lord. Cultivate your skills. Deepen your knowledge. Be mindful of how you are building the Kingdom of God.

Stewardship of Mind: Resolve to keep your mind active. Commit to being more informed on the issues of the day. Read your bible. In this year of presidential elections in the U.S. familiarize yourself with the Church's social teachings.

Stewardship of Neighbor: Resolve to be a person of hospitality; to make time and space for others who enter your life. Be more aware of those times when a neighbor, co-worker, fellow parishioner or stranger, needs a moment of kindness, a little attention or an affirming gesture on your part.

Stewardship of the Poor: Resolve to live with more compassion and in solidarity with those less fortunate. Remember the poor in prayer, and commit to helping relieve in some way the plight of those who are impoverished or marginalized.

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." 1 Peter 4:10

“Live it”

STEWARDSHIP IS NO SIMPLE FORMULA; IT'S A WAY OF LIFE. IT'S AN UNDERSTANDING THAT EVERYTHING I HAVE IS GOD'S AND MY LIFE SHOULD SHOW THIS FACT.

THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL board would sincerely like to thank you for your generosity this past year. On your behalf we were able to assist 591 families in 2007 in the amount of \$66,507.00. Please know that the people in our communities are able to live better lives thanks to you. Individual donations to St. Vincent de Paul may be made at any time by simple dropping an envelope in the collection or mailing a donation to the rectory marked for St. Vincent de Paul.

THE “ROOF PROJECT” has collected over \$1,000 in donation!

WE SEE HER EVERYWHERE - at church, school, community and parish functions. She is one of the most giving people - always sharing her time and talent whenever possible. If we were blindfolded, we would know who was there just by her saying “*God bless you!*” One of her most ambitious projects is the aluminum can recycling program at St. Mary's. Hundreds of dollars have been earned because of this project. Not only is this program a sharing of her time, but it also promotes stewardship of our environment. Besides her daily duties as a kindergarten aide, you will find her working bingo, parish festivals, pancake breakfasts and just about anywhere else there is a need. If only those of us half her age could put forth so much energy on so many worth-while endeavors. From all of us at St. Mary and St. Anthony, we say “God bless you, Sister Mary Agnes!” Thank you for being such an example of a good steward.



AND IN OUR SCHOOLS...

- The Early Childhood Center collected non-perishable food items and filled mission banks for the Holy Childhood Association. 3 & 4 year olds collected children's books to donate to Fisher-Titus Medical Center.
- Norwalk Catholic School Elementary students purchased a processed, freezer ready "whole hog" to be donated to the Salvation Army. Spanish classes collected diapers and children's clothing for an orphanage in Costa Rica that Spanish teacher, Miss Katherine Kelly volunteered at over the Christmas break. 1st graders wrote letters and sent cards to active military personnel as well as the soldiers who live at the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky. 4th graders donated Happy Birthday Jesus items to Abigail Pregnancy Center and ministered to a shut-in via the parish giving tree. 6th graders collected snack items that will be donated to for the chemotherapy patients at Fisher-Titus Medical Center. Elementary students also supported the family of a seventh grade boy who has cancer. The students at St. Paul High adopted two families for Christmas and each religion class took on service projects.
- PSR classes also collected winter clothing items and new toys for families.

The St. Mary/St. Anthony Stewardship Committee is looking for new members. “Our mission is to live every aspect of our lives as stewards and to inspire others to be committed to a life of stewardship through education and encouragement.”

If you have any questions or would like more information, call Mona Hauler at 419-668-1599.

**The Next Stewardship Committee Meeting:
Tue. Feb. 12th – 7 pm
St. Mary's**

*A Christian steward is grateful, loving, and generous.
They receive God's gifts gratefully, tend them responsibly
and share them generously.*