



GENEROSITY AT CHRISTMAS

by ICSC member, Dan Potvin, Director of Stewardship for the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, Canada.

With all the giving that will be taking place this month I felt it an opportune occasion to reflect on the virtue of generosity - one of the hallmarks of Christian stewardship. Authentic generosity is born out of the virtue of gratitude, and we in North America certainly have much for which to be grateful. In fact, **we do well to always and everywhere give thanks to God**, because all that we possess is his gift. When we are grateful to God we are inspired to give, not out of a sense of obligation or duty, but because giving is one way we can say thank you to God.

For generosity to be authentic it needs to be sacrificial and at the same time joyful. We need to give up something! Giving what we do not need is nice; but, it is not necessarily being generous. Sacrifice means that we give out of our own need and not simply from what is left over. When we sacrifice it makes the generous act more joyful because by saying no to something that we need or want, we are able to say yes to the greater good. There is nothing more life-giving than knowing that someone less fortunate is benefiting from your sacrifice. Whether you are giving your time or money, when the virtue of gratitude is behind the gift, the spirit of joy will naturally accompany the generous act. Joy makes the generous act mutually beneficial - joy shared is joy multiplied. Without joy, neither the giver nor the one receiving the gift will experience any benefit. Imagine giving, but doing it reluctantly or under compulsion; you would not be very motivated because there is no joy there. Joy is found inside an attitude of gratitude.

When we live well within our means we cultivate an acute awareness of our abundant blessings and this creates the desire, and the confidence, to share our gifts with authentic generosity. In gratitude our generosity is then rooted in our needing to give rather than giving to a need.

This article is part six in a series of 12 reflections on stewardship virtues.

Familiar Face, Julie Kenny leads December Webinar

December's webinar, "Effective Parish Communication" will be lead by Julie Kenny. Kenny has worked for Our Sunday Visitor since 1995 and is currently the Stewardship Services Manager of the Offertory Solutions Division. She traveled to Lubbock to take part in the Diocese of Lubbock Stewardship Day in 2013. Her presentation "Characteristics of a Stewardship Parish" lead to dynamic brainstorming within parishes. She has been involved in training, marketing and communications since 1983 in a variety of organizations, both for-profit, and not-for-profit like Our Sunday Visitor.



EFFECTIVE PARISH COMMUNICATION



Communicating about stewardship requires more than newsletters and a month-long program of ministry fairs, lay witnessing, and a commitment Sunday. December's 60

minute webinar will provide practical ideas of ways to keep the stewardship message alive all year long and as a shared responsibility among all those involved in parish ministry.

The last 2013 sixty-minute Loaves + Fishes® stewardship webinar hosted by *Our Sunday Visitor* will take place December 10. This webinar is for parish staff and leaders of a variety of topics critical to parish life. Each webinar is normally \$59.00 per parish (*that's over \$400 a year!*) But the Office of Stewardship and Development has paid your way!!

This webinar series is **FREE** TO YOU.

Please take advantage of the investment we have made in your parish. These esteemed presenters provide quality education at costs much larger than this.

The next free OSV webinar will be Tuesday, December 10 at 1 p.m. Julie Kenny will present "Effective Parish Communication"

If you missed last month's Stewardship webinar, don't let it

To register visit

<https://student.gototraining.com/rt/7883917630855721984>

and insert '**FREE**' (all capital letters) when prompted for the discount code.

<p>Price \$129.00 USD per registrant</p> <input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Apply Discount Code"/>
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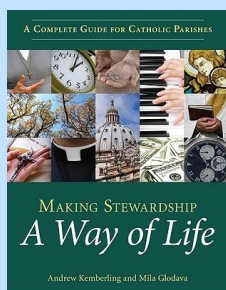
You will receive an e-mail confirmation from Diane Brumbaugh with the link you will use to join the webinar on Tuesday December 10.

SAVE THIS E-MAIL. Your parish can watch the webinar from the same computer, or you can register on different computers and watch in the comfort of your own office or home!



6 Phases of Stewardship

- Stewardship of Prayer
- Stewardship of Ministry
- Stewardship of Faith
- Stewardship of Treasure
- Stewardship of Vocations
- Stewardship of Earth**



The book 'Making Stewardship a Way of Life' explains each phase in detail. Pick one up today! Books are available in the office of Stewardship and Development

As we finalize the six phases of Stewardship from 'Making Stewardship a Way of Life' we end with the stewardship of Earth. The Bible and the Catechism clearly show that God gave us the moral responsibility of taking care of the earth. In the bishops' pastoral letter on Stewardship they say that caring for and cultivating the world involves:

- 1) Joyful appreciation for the God-given beauty and wonder of nature
- 2) Protection and preservation of the environment, which would be the stewardship of ecological concern
- 3) Respect for human life—shielding life from threat and assault, doing everything that can be done to enhance the gift and make life flourish
- 4) Development of this world through noble human effort—physical labor, the trades and professions, the arts and sciences.

Consider the following Stewardship of Earth for sign up Sunday:

Adult Stewardship of the Earth Commitment

- Recycle newspaper, paper, cardboard, glass, tin and aluminum
- Wash clothes in cold water and air dry when possible
- Use old clothes and cloth for cleaning instead of paper towels
- Reduced use of disposable products or if you must buy disposable buy paper or glass products instead of plastic
- Recycle engine oil
- Participate in 40 Days for Life
- Invest your money in environmentally and socially conscious businesses
- When purchasing a car select an energy efficient model.
- Avoid buying aerosol cans and Styrofoam products
- Purchase products made from recycle materials
- Ask candidates for office that they are prepares to do to pursue environmental justice
- Go to the Catholic Relief Services website at www.catholicrelief.org and get involved in an international relief campaign
- Go to the Bread for the World website at www.breadfortheworld.org and help fight world hunger.
- Consider purchasing fair-trade coffee. Go to www.cafecampesino.com and learn more about fairly traded, shade grown coffee.
- Pray for an end to abortion, sex trafficking and all life diminishing actions taking place throughout the world.

We hope you enjoyed learning about the six phases of stewardship over the past six months. Please use these commitment forms for your parish commitment Sundays. All newsletters are online at www.catholicstewardshipclubbock.org

Webinars to Continue in 2014

Due to the popularity and success of the *Our Sunday Visitor* monthly Loaves + Fishes® stewardship webinars, the Office of Stewardship and Development has purchased webinars for the 2014 year. Each webinar is normally \$59.00 per parish (*that's over \$400 a year!*) But the Office of Stewardship and Development has paid your way!!

To avoid confusion and conflict, webinars will always be the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. Please reserve this hour once a month to learn how stewardship can help your parish.

Remember, this webinar series is **FREE TO YOU**. Please take advantage of the investment we have made in your parish. These esteemed presenters provide quality education at costs much larger than this.

Webinar Topics

Subject to change

January

Stewardship and Evangelization

February

Stewardship and the Hispanic Culture through Transitions

March

Working through Change: How to help Parishioners through Transitions