

Bulletin Bits Based on the Sunday Readings

These bulletin bits are from Sharon Hueckel's book *Stewardship by the Book* and are reprinted here with permission. Whether your parish is preparing to launch a formal stewardship "program," nurturing an earlier stewardship effort, trying to increase awareness of the link between discipleship and stewardship, or just trying desperately to keep the parish financially afloat, dropping Stewardship by the Book into the bulletin each week is one fairly painless way to work at stewardship education.

July 1, 2012, Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's reading from St. Paul explains the "divine economy" of stewardship — "The relief of others ought not to impoverish you; there should be certain equality. Your plenty at the present time should supply their need so that their surplus may in turn one day supply your need."

See 2 Corinthians 8:13-14

July 8, 2012, Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

During this time, we celebrate the independence of our country. We would do well to echo the psalmist, saying, "Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for His mercy." May we always recognize and use wisely the gifts of freedom and abundance He has showered upon us.

See Psalm 123

July 15, 2012, Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's readings are about being chosen and sent. The prophet Amos was chosen by the Lord and sent to use his talents for the people of God. The Gospel recounts the story of the sending of the twelve. In the second reading, St. Paul reminds us that we, too, are chosen. For what have I been chosen? To whom have I been sent?

July 22, 2012, Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today's Gospel, Jesus had planned to slip away from the crowds for a few moments of peace and a little rest. When He saw the people gathered, however, He put His needs aside to meet the needs of others. Sometimes, as good stewards, we are called to do the same.

July 29, 2012, Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"The hand of the Lord feeds us," says the psalmist; "he answers all our needs." Both Elisha's servant in the first reading and the disciples in the Gospel story who witnessed the feeding of the five thousand saw this happen and knew it to be true.

See Psalm 145

August 5, 2012, Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The crowd in today's Gospel demanded a sign from Jesus. May our faithful stewardship be a sign to others that we, like the Ephesians in the second reading, have laid aside our former way of life and acquired a "fresh, spiritual way of thinking" in Christ.

August 12, 2012, Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The gifts of God that the angel brought to Elijah — food, water, rest, and encouragement — were given, not for his own good alone, but to strengthen him for service. How am I using my gifts to serve others?

August 19, 2012, Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Even though we are told that if we seek the Lord, we shall not want, in the second reading St. Paul reminds us that, thus blessed by the Lord, the good steward should “give thanks to God the Father always and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

See Ephesians 5:20

August 26, 2012, Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today’s first reading, Joshua challenges the people to decide whom they will serve.

Recalling

God’s faithfulness to them and to their ancestors, the people declare, “We also will serve the Lord, for He is our God.” May we, too, be mindful of God’s gifts to us and renew our commitment to serve Him with grateful hearts.

See Joshua 24:18