

## **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 7, 2013, Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

"The harvest is rich," Jesus tells the seventy-two in today's Gospel, "but the workers are few." The situation is the same today. How can I help with God's harvest? Am I called into the field? Am I one who could provide food or shelter or wages to those who toil in the fields of the Lord? See Luke 10:2

### **July 14, 2013, Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

The Good Samaritan was also a good steward, giving his time and his treasure to meet his neighbor's need. At the end of this familiar story, Jesus urges His hearers — and us — to go and do the same!

### **July 21, 2013, Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Today's readings speak of hospitality. Abraham, who cheerfully did for his guests all that desert hospitality required, was rewarded with his heart's desire — a son. Martha also busied herself with all the details of hospitality, but grudgingly and with complaint. Am I a cheerful or a grudging giver?

### **July 28, 2013, Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Jesus is describing God's immeasurable generosity when He says in today's Gospel, "Whoever asks, receives; whoever seeks, finds; whoever knocks, is admitted." But it should also be the description of us as Christian stewards — those seeking to follow Christ by using our gifts in service to others. See Luke 11:10

### **August 4, 2013, Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Jesus urges us to be rich in what matters to God. The psalmist warns us against hardening our hearts. Are our hearts open to what really matters?

### **August 11, 2013, Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Am I waiting for the "right" time to become a good steward? Do I plan to share my time and talents "later?" Today's Gospel warns those who are procrastinating about stewardship to be prepared — "at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." *or (if the long form of the Gospel is read):*

Today's Gospel urges us to give generously and thus build up treasure in heaven. For "wherever your treasure lies, there your heart will be."

See Luke 12:34

**August 18, 2013, Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

In today's second reading, St. Paul encourages us not to grow weary or lose heart, but to persevere in following Jesus. Our willingness to give of ourselves, even in the face of conflict and division, is one way to measure our discipleship.

**August 25, 2013, Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Today's reading from Isaiah describes the Israelites bringing their offering to the Lord "in clean vessels." The gift of myself — my patient endurance and fidelity to the will of God — is as important as the monetary gift I offer.

See Isaiah 66:20