



# THE STEWARD'S RESPONSE

## Discipleship & The Faithful Steward

June 2010 / Issue 2010-01

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## BRAND NEW OPPORTUNITY

### PARISH ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP

August 17-18

Holy Spirit Catholic Church

Facilitated by  
**Monsignor Bill Hanson**

**Y**ou've been hearing about parish engagement from our office, and we were blessed to have Monsignor Bill Hanson from St. Gerard Majella Parish in New York spend a day with us in April discussing this very topic. Now we're offering an opportunity to go one step further.

The message is clear: engagement is crucial not only to church growth but to church depth. "Belonging leads to believing" is the cornerstone of growing an engaged church.

This is NOT another program; we know you don't need another program.

Monsignor Hanson and parishioners from St. Gerard will spend two days showing parish leaders how to reach and inspire the hearts, minds, and imaginations of their parishioners.

If you focus your efforts on increasing members' sense of belonging you will end up with members who are not only engaged, but also more spiritually committed with measurable results.

**REGISTER NOW** to ensure your place. Contact:  
**Tracy Zelczak**  
Click: [tzelczak@archatl.com](mailto:tzelczak@archatl.com)  
Call: 404-885-9440

## HOW TO HANDLE GOD'S MONEY

There is a comprehensive program to equip people of all ages to handle money God's way. Using seminars, small group studies, video series and one-to-one budget counseling, there is a learning experience to accommodate individual preferences and teaching methods. Crown Financial offers outstanding Catholic studies for children from age five to college and from young adults to retirees. Specific programs offer help for target groups such as single parents or the newly married.

Come to this meeting to learn what Crown Financial has to offer Catholic parishes in order to equip them to teach parishioners how to handle money from God's perspective.

The strong biblical foundation for all

Crown's materials is the basis for the effectiveness of the program. For well over two decades these biblical financial principles have proven to be life changing for all those who put them into practice. The Catholic Supplement provides Church teaching from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the *US Catechism for Adults* and the Bishop's Pastoral Letters - *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*. The Catholic Supplement is used alongside the Crown materials. The Crown Biblical Financial Study along with the Practical Application workbook and the Catholic Supplement provide the student with a unique learning and transformational experience.

### Catholic Crown Financial

October 23

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church

We pray that your parish will be blessed through using Crown.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church*; *United States Catechism for Adults* and various Pastoral Letters are referenced throughout the Catholic

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### NOTE

Check out the "Archdiocese of Atlanta Stewardship Office" on Facebook!

## Equip God's People to Handle Money / continued

supplement in support of the Crown study.

Monsignor William Young of Houston says: *"The study helps to shine God's truth on our lives by using finances. Finances are the vehicle, which help one to look deeply into how we use God's many gifts. One of the first examinations we give ourselves is whether we truly recognize God as the giver & owner of all we have. There is nothing in the Bible study that is contradictory to Catholic theology. You can attend this*

*study without any fear. We should never write off something because it is 'not Catholic.' That in itself is 'un-Catholic.' One of our faith's strongest qualities is that we choose not to fear truth. Any truth from any direction, from any church or political system, is always a work of the Holy Spirit. God is Truth. All truth has the potential to lead us to God..."*

**REGISTER NOW** to ensure your place. Contact:

**Tracy Zelczak**

Click: [tzelczak@archatl.com](mailto:tzelczak@archatl.com)

Call: 404-885-9440

**This seminar is for clergy, DREs, catechists and anyone interested in promoting parishioners' fiscal responsibility and decision-making.**



## Archdiocesan Annual Appeal Changes

**S**tarting with the 2011 Appeal, we will alter the timing of the campaign. The change to be implemented will have the Appeal running on a calendar year timeframe, beginning a few weeks before Lent and culminating in December of the same year. The 2011 Appeal will commence in February 2011 with letters to parishioners being mailed in early February. The parish-in-pew phase of the campaign will be conducted the three weekends prior to Ash Wednesday, beginning the weekend of February 19. The 2011 Annual Appeal campaign will end on December 31, 2011. As a result, the *entire* 2011 campaign will occur during 2011.

### Assisting with your goal

As a result of the changed timing for the 2011 Appeal, you may wish to use the remainder of the 2010 calendar year to reach your 2010 goal. To assist you in doing so—and at no cost to you—the Stewardship Office will send out "3<sup>rd</sup> Ask" letters from

Archbishop Gregory that are "personalized" for each parish. That is, the body of the letter refers to the parish and the pastor by name and also states the amount of money still needed to reach the parish goal. Letters are sent to those parishioners who have yet to pledge or give.

This process is time consuming, as it is done on a parish-by-parish basis. The Stewardship Office has already begun assisting parishes, and is focusing initially on those with the lowest percentage of goal reached.

We advise that the best results are achieved when the letter is received roughly the same time the pastor is encouraging contributions from the pulpit. We can apprise you of the approximate date that the letters will be mailed so that you can time this appropriately. Remember that positive messaging from you will result in positive responses from your parishioners.

St. Michael the Archangel in

Woodstock has had very good results since their letters were mailed on April 14, with Fr. Larry Niese speaking from the altar the following Sunday.

If you are interested in taking advantage of such a letter, contact Christine Heusinger at 404-885-7277 or at [cheusinger@archatl.com](mailto:cheusinger@archatl.com) to reserve a place for your parish on the schedule.

### CUTOFF DATE for the 2010 Appeal

Be aware that the 2010 Appeal will END on December 31, 2010. Pledge payments and gifts coming in after year end will be applied to the 2010 Appeal only until the February 1, 2011 cutoff. After that date, all pledges/gifts received will be applied to the 2011 Appeal.

*We believe these changes will benefit parishes and our parishioner donors. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Stewardship.*

"The entire Annual Appeal campaign will take place in the same calendar year"

## KUDOS

**S**t. Ann Parish, Marietta, and St. Philip Benizi Parish, Jonesboro, have adopted Cardinal Roger Mahony's *Making the Offertory More Meaningful* (see September 2009 issue of this newsletter). We'll let you know in a few months if they experienced an increase in giving.

## SECOND COLLECTIONS IN 2011

Concerns among parishioners and pastors regarding the number of second collections have reached Archbishop Gregory's ears in the last year. As a result, in February he asked for a panel of pastors and stewardship office staff to review the archdiocese's second collection schedule. The panel met twice in March, reviewing the history of the collections, parish-based collections, parishes response to the national collections, and the policies employed by other arch/dioceses.

The panel found that there were 17 *mandated* second collections—eleven USCCB collections and six Archdiocese of Atlanta collections—leaving 35 weeks at the discretion of parishes to utilize for second collections. The panel addressed those weeks that it could have influence on—the 17 second collections of the USCCB and the AoA. The panel's modus operandi was to reduce the number of weekends with mandated second collection and to schedule them in such a way that they would be more convenient for the parishes.

**The panel's proposals** included the following:

- Fourteen collections total (eight USCCB and five archdiocesan, and one which combines USCCB and AoA). This was achieved entirely through combining various collections. No mandated collection was eliminated.
- The 14 collections to be limited to one per month with the exception of April and December which contain the Easter and Christmas second collections.
- When combining USCCB collections, there was an attempt to join commonly themed collections, e.g., foreign missions.
- None of the 14 were scheduled on first Sundays.
- No USCCB collections which share a percentage of income with the archdiocese, e.g., Catholic Communications or the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, were combined.
- There was an attempt to avoid travel-prone secular holiday weekends such as Memorial Day or Labor Day.

The panel also discussed the importance of parishes exercising control over second collections that they initiate on their own, and suggested, to this end, that some orientation or education effort may be valuable for priests and finance councils. Education efforts for priests and parishioners alike, were also suggested by the panel.

The panel made its recommendations for the 2011 schedule, and they were presented to the Council of Priests on May 19. The Council suggested altering the timing of two collections. Those changes were made, and the final 2011 schedule was approved by Archbishop Gregory.

**The 2011 schedule** is posted at:

[www.archatl.com/offices/stewardship/2ndcollection.html](http://www.archatl.com/offices/stewardship/2ndcollection.html)

Please send this schedule to your envelope provider as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact Christine Heusinger.

## Calendar NOTE

### 2011 Regional Stewardship Conference

**Saturday  
April 9**

Sheraton  
Imperial Hotel

4700 Emperor  
Boulevard  
Raleigh, NC



## ABC of Blessings

### What God does for You

**A**ccepts you as you are, **B**elieves in you always, **C**alls to you deep in your heart, **D**oesn't give up on you, **E**nvions the whole of you—even the unfinished parts, **F**orgives your mistakes, **G**ives to you unconditionally, **H**elps you, **I**nvites you **J**ust to be with Him through the sacraments, the scriptures and prayer, **K**eeps you close to His heart, **L**oves you for who you are, **M**akes a difference in your life, **N**ever judges you harshly, **O**ffers you constant strength and courage, **P**icks you up, **Q**uiets your fears, **R**aises your hopes, **S**hows you how to live like Jesus, **T**ells you the truth when you need to hear it. **U**nderstands you. **V**alues you. **W**alks beside you. **X**-plains the meaning of life to you through people of faith and wisdom. **Y**es, no or wait" is His answer to every prayer, **Z**aps you back to reality when you lose your way.

### What You can do for God

**A**cept differences, **B**e kind to everyone, **C**ount your blessings, **D**o good even when you don't feel like it, **E**xpress thanks for all your blessings, **F**orgive *and* forget, **G**ive freely, **H**arm no one, **I**magine more, **J**ettison anger, **K**eeep confidences, **L**ove truly, **M**aster something, **N**urture hope, **O**pen your mind, **P**ack lightly, **Q**uell rumors, **R**eturn favors, **S**eeek wisdom, **T**ouch hearts, **U**nderstand, **V**alue truth more than success, **W**ork to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and build up His Church, **X**-amine your own heart instead of judging others, **Y**earn for peace, **Z**ealously support worthy causes with your abilities, time and money.

## MONEY AND MISSION by Bishop Will Willmon

I'm sure that there are many lessons to be learned about stewardship in this worst of times, best of times. In order to learn as much as I could, I read J. Cliff Christopher's **Not Your Parents' Offering Plate: A New Vision for Financial Stewardship** (Abingdon Press, 2008).

Christopher chides church leaders like me who sound the alarm and plead for more money for ministry. The church is the only nonprofit I know of that seems to *believe* that the more you cry that you are sinking, the more people will give to you. *The exact opposite is true.* No nonprofit I know of would ever send out a donor letter stating that they are running a horrible deficit and they just want the donors to help balance the budget. They know that such a letter actually discourages giving rather than motivates it. A nonprofit board will deal with budget matters in a board meeting but never publicize such to its donor base. The church goes out of its way to do just that.

In the nonprofit world, two institutions continue to outperform most of the others. The Salvation Army continues to get more donations each year than any social service agency or group. Harvard University leads all universities in endowment-giving year after year. Do they send out a message that they are dying on the vine and must have one more contribution to stay afloat? No, they say, "We took your money last year and we did great things with it. If you will give us more, we will do more great things." And people give and give to them. People want results and these institutions give positive results!

Above all, Christopher stresses that "money follows mission." He asked a group of pastors why people give: They started blurting out, "taxes, guilt, involvement..." No one was even close. Finally, a lady who had been sitting quietly in the back raised her hand and said, "Number one is a belief in the mission. Number two is a regard for staff leadership, and number three is fiscal responsibility." She was right. I was stunned. I asked her where she was a pastor and she sheepishly said, "I am not a pastor, but my pastor told me about this seminar and thought I might learn something. I am the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity."

The one absolutely most important factor in why people give is mission: People want to make the world a better place to live. They want to believe that they can truly make a difference for the better. There is embedded in us, it seems, a desire to finish out our work on this earth with a sense that we amounted to something. To sum it up, people want to be a part of something that changes lives.

The best way to raise money for your church is simply to DO YOUR JOB! I get frustrated reading newsletters of church after church that tell me how the men's group is going to have a breakfast on Saturday and the women are going to have a bazaar next Thursday and the youth will have a dance next Friday after the ball game. Then, over in the corner, usually separated by a bold line so that it stands out, I see financial statistics, which usually indicate that a certain amount was needed and a lesser amount was received, with a quote underneath, "God loves a cheerful giver."

When I see that I want to say, "What have I got to be cheerful about?" Did you show me one life story in this newsletter about how the church has been making our world better? Is there one life-changing story in the entire document? Do you really just exist so that men can have breakfast, women a bazaar, and youth can dance? What is it exactly that you want me to support?

I have noted, in our churches, that apportionment giving seems to be a barometer of the spiritual health of a congregation and of the congregation's confidence in their pastor's vision.

Christopher confirms this: What I have learned after working with over two hundred churches is that the person leading the flock makes a lot of difference in whether today's donors contribute as completely as they can. When they see a pastor who has a great vision and shows excellent skills in leadership, they will invest in that pastor's vision and trust in his or her skills to make the hopes of the donor come true.

"We took your money last year and we did great things with it"

## LIGHTEN UP!

### FINANCIAL PLANNING

Dan was a single guy living at home with his father and working in the family business.

When he found out he was going to inherit a fortune when his sickly father died, he decided he needed to find a wife with whom to share his fortune.

One evening, at an investment meeting, he spotted the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. Her natural beauty took his breath away.

"I may look like just an ordinary guy," he said to her, "but in just a few years, my father will die and I will inherit \$200 million."

Impressed, the woman asked for his business card and three days later, she became his stepmother. Women are so much better at financial planning.

## HELPING PEOPLE TO BELONG

Do your parishioners know what is expected of them as a registered member? The following is from the ICSC publication *Keeping Stewardship Alive*. St. Marcelline Parish asks all who seek to join the community to make a deliberate choice and a willing commitment. Once this Parish Covenant is signed it is brought forward at Mass on the 1st Sunday of the month. *NOTE: A covenant in the scriptures is an agreement between God and his people in which God makes certain promises and requires certain behavior from them in return*

### Our Promise

#### ST. MARCELLINE CATHOLIC CHURCH COVENANT

The people of St. Marcelline gladly welcome you into our church...your new home. We are a faith-filled people who love God and strongly believe in a Stewardship way of life. Stewardship means we firmly believe all we have comes from God—our time, our talent and treasure, and as good stewards, we need to return a portion of the gifts God has bestowed on us back to Him.

#### The parish of St. Marcelline PROMISES

*To care for your needs—sacramental, spiritual and personal. We also are committed to caring for the world's poor by giving a portion of our income to local and global missions.*

#### What do we ask of YOU?

*As a member of St. Marcelline, we ask that you join in being a good steward. We ask that you give of your time by attending Mass, receiving the sacraments, and spending time in daily prayer. We ask that you give of your talents—those special gifts God has given you—by becoming involved in the life of this parish. We ask that you give back a share of your treasure—returning a portion of what God has given you, enabling your new parish home to help you and others.*

We are proud of our community, deep friendships are formed here. We care very much for one another. We want you to be a part of this faith life.

I understand what St. Marcelline promises and what is asked of me. I want to be a member of the community of St. Marcelline and will do my part.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parishioner Pastor

## ANYWAY

This is from a sign on the wall of Shishu Bhavan, the children's home in Calcutta founded by Mother Teresa. It sums up how service given with no strings attached can lead to peace of heart:

People are unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered. LOVE THEM ANYWAY.  
 If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. DO GOOD ANYWAY.  
 If you are successful, you win false friends and true enemies. SUCCEED ANYWAY.  
 The good you will do will be forgotten tomorrow. DO GOOD ANYWAY.  
 Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable. BE HONEST & FRANK ANYWAY.  
 What you spent your years building may be destroyed overnight. BUILD ANYWAY.  
 People really need help, but may attack you if you help them. HELP PEOPLE ANYWAY.  
 Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth. GIVE THE WORLD THE BEST YOU'VE GOT ANYWAY.



### Jesus revealed to St. Catherine of Siena:

"I could well have made human beings in such a way, that they each had everything, but I preferred to give different gifts to different people, so that they would all need each other."

## FREE ONLINE COURSE

The **Welcoming Ministry 101** online course (WL101) is a free, self-directed course designed by the Methodist Church to help church leaders to explore the importance of developing a welcoming lifestyle—in your life and in your church. The four-part course allows you to work at your own pace as you read information, explore multimedia materials, engage in discussion forums, complete assignments, take quizzes and share feedback. Each of the four modules takes about one hour to complete and includes:

- An introduction to welcoming, as you consider what welcoming means and put yourself in the place of a stranger.
- An exploration of how to make welcoming a personal ministry that demonstrates what you can do to live out welcoming as a model for others in your church.

An opportunity to create an action plan for your church and organize ideas you have discovered in this course that will help your church become a more welcoming congregation.

### COURSE DATES

The course begins the first Wednesday of October and again in December, and each session is **open to pre-registered participants** for six weeks.

**October 6-November 17**

**December 1-January 12 (2011)**

### REGISTRATION

Pre-registration is required to participate in this course, and no participants will be admitted once the course begins.

To pre-register go to:

[www.umcom.org/site/c.mrLZJ9PFKMG/b.3587525/k.44E2](http://www.umcom.org/site/c.mrLZJ9PFKMG/b.3587525/k.44E2)

[Welcoming\\_Ministry\\_Online\\_Course.htm](#)

and select the *Pre-register for this session* link under the course dates for which you wish to enroll. This link should open your default email program. Simply send an email requesting pre-registration for the specified session dates.

**You will not receive a confirmation of your pre-registration.** You will receive an email message with log-in instructions the day the course opens. Pre-registration ends the day before the course session begins.

## YOU TOOK MY PLACE

One day, a man went to check out the local Catholic church. He got there early, parked his car and got out. Another car pulled up near the driver got out and said, "I always park there! You took my place!"

The man went inside the ministry building for an Adult Education class. He found an empty seat and sat down. A young woman approached him and stated, "That's my seat! You took my place!" The newcomer was somewhat distressed by this rudeness but said nothing.

Later, the man went into the church and sat down to wait for Mass to begin. Another person walked up to him and said, "That's where I always sit! You took my place!" The man was even more troubled by this treatment, but still he said nothing.

Later, as the congregation was praying for Christ to come among them in the Eucharist, the man stood up, and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, "What happened to you?" The man replied, as his hat became a crown of thorns, and a tear fell from his eye, "I took your place.."

**Isn't it strange that princes and kings**

**And clowns that caper in sawdust ring**

**And common folk like you and me**

**Are builders of eternity?**

**To each is given a bag of tools**

**An hourglass and a book of rules**

**And each must build before life has flown**

**A stumbling block or a stepping stone**

*R.L. Sharpe: Stumbling Blocks or Stepping Stones*

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**UPCOMING MONTHLY WEBINARS**

*Our Sunday Visitor* offers monthly webinars that are both valuable for forming disciples and stewards, and convenient to participate in. To assist you in making stewardship a way of life in your parish, the Office of Stewardship will subscribe to each of the following webinars on your behalf:

**June 8\***

How to Maximize Your Offertory

**July 13\***

Blending Multiple Cultures

**August 10\***

Stewardship, Not for Adults Only

**September 14#**

Forming Disciples and Stewards

**October 1#**

Working Together: How to Create Joint Ministries with Nearby Parishes

**November 9#**

Stewardship Councils: Laying Foundations &amp; Building Bridges

**December 14#**

Stewardship &amp; Evangelization

KEY: \* 2PM only, # 2PM and 7PM

**YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER!**

Two weeks before each event, go to:

[http://www.formstack.com/forms/osvoffertory-diocesanwide\\_webinar\\_registration\\_form](http://www.formstack.com/forms/osvoffertory-diocesanwide_webinar_registration_form)

**For more details of these webinars:**

<http://www.osvoffertory.com/PARISH/Stewardship/EventsWebinars.aspx>

**A WELCOMING PARISH?**

There was a poll done in a local parish and the vast majority of those members who responded felt that their parish *was* a welcoming place. However, visitors to that parish who were asked the same question, absolutely denied feeling welcome.

How can the two views of the same parish be so different? Do we perhaps believe we are welcoming because we are having such a nice visit with our friends after Mass? How do we reach out to the person, or family, who is standing alone?

Even if you have seen them before; even if you believe they are members of the parish; the fact that they are alone should motivate

you to move toward them and extend a hand of friendship.

Welcoming newcomers and guests is NOT just the job of the greeters and ushers. It is OUR job, it is the staff's job, it is the clergy's job.

So, how do we approach the person we don't know to be more hospitable? How about starting with "Are you a long-time member of St. John's?" That is a great opening because, no matter which way they answer, you can follow up with how much you love your parish and your faith family and what membership has meant to you and your family.

**The Ushers**

At our April Hospitality Workshop, an attendee remarked, "I'm an usher. Our parish already has someone doing hospitality." Consider the ushers. No, really, let's pay them some attention! Are your parish ushers *welcoming*, or are they stern-faced commandos of the pew?

Ushers are sometimes the first people to make one-on-one communication with a visitor or newcomer. When they are seating parishioners before Mass starts, holding back late-comers, and controlling the communion flow, ushers need to remember to smile at those people they are directing.

Consider this... not every personality type SHOULD be an usher. It's time to take a fresh look at the ministry of parish ushers.