

THE STEWARD'S RESPONSE

Discipleship & The Faithful Steward

February 2012 / Issue 2012-1

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Regional Conference



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FR. DAN MAHAN

The Archdiocese of Atlanta and the Dioceses of Charleston, Savannah, Charlotte, and Raleigh are presenting their annual **Regional Stewardship Conference**.

Saturday, April 28

**Embassy Suites Hotel
Airport Convention Center
Charleston, SC**

The Keynote Speaker for the conference is Reverend Daniel Mahan. Father Dan is a priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the Executive Director of the Marian University Center for Catholic Stewardship. He speaks frequently at the ICSC International Stewardship Conference and is well known for his insight into the spirituality of stewardship.

The Archdiocese of Atlanta will be well-represented in the presentations!

Deacon Bill Hampton, St. Matthew Parish in Tyrone, GA, will lead a breakout session on parish engagement from the point of view of a smaller parish. Deacon Bill is very enthusiastic about parish engagement. He has presented the Gallup ME25 Survey *twice* to his parish, and offers a unique perspective on using the tools provided by Gallup to measure and improve the engagement of the parishioners of St. Matthew.

Fr. Dan Fleming and his lay stewardship leaders from St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Sharpsburg will present the "Parish Profile" breakout session. Each year this session highlights the stewardship work done at a particular parish. St. Mary Magdalene has been very successful in raising stewardship awareness.

For more information on the conference, along with registration information, and a confirmed hotel room rate go to Page 5

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*The Office of Stewardship will, once again, provide a charter bus at no charge to you for your ease of travel and enjoyment! Bingo anyone? We will leave the Catholic Center at approximately 3:00p.m. on Friday, and depart Charleston on Saturday right after the last session. **Reservations are required!***

NOTE!

Nationally known expert

CHARLES ZECH

presenting a one day seminar in Atlanta!

See Page 4

Gallup ME²⁵ Surveys in Progress

Five parishes in the Archdiocese of Atlanta will be presenting the Gallup Membership Engagement (ME²⁵) surveys in the first quarter of 2012: Prince of Peace, Flowery Branch; St. Thomas the Apostle, Smyrna; St. Matthew, Tyrone; St. Anthony of Padua, Atlanta and Our Lady of La Salette, Canton, have decided to measure what previously was believed to be "immeasurable"—the spiritual engagement of their parishioners.

The ME²⁵ survey of 25 questions captures important information about the spiritual health of faith communities.

Gallup research has shown that engaged members are more than 10 times as likely to invite friends to participate in their faith communities, are nearly three times as likely to say they are extremely satisfied with their lives, spend more than two hours per week serving and helping others in their communities, and give three times more to their faith communities annually.

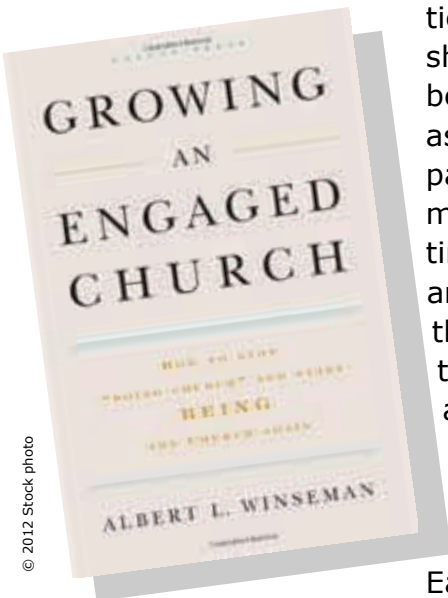
Each parish will offer their parishioners an opportunity to take the survey during Mass or to take it online. Gallup will then scientifically evaluate the surveys and on April 19, Al Winseman, the author of *Growing an Engaged Church* will meet with committees from the five parishes at an "Impact Meeting" to discuss how the parishes can interpret their survey results into action plans aimed at increasing engagement.

If you have any questions about the Gallup ME²⁵ please contact Christine in the Stewardship Office.



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AL WINSEMAN



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OFFERTORY ENVELOPES Why should we use them?

- Using an envelope benefits both us and the Parish.
- It helps us to make a conscious decision about what we are going to contribute.
- Using envelopes regularly tells our children that giving to the Church is a priority for us.
- Offertory in envelopes makes the ongoing budgeting process easier for the Parish, and becomes a "budget" item for us.
- The use of envelopes is an expression of how we give of ourselves in the offering of the Mass.
- The envelope number automatically identifies our contributions for tax receipt purposes.
- Gifts in numbered offertory envelopes make it easier for parish staff to record our giving into the parish database. Time and money is saved by not having to look up parishioners' envelope numbers.
- Gifts of cash, while always welcome, cannot be recorded by the giver's name.
- Wrapping our gift in an envelope with our name on it makes our gift more personal.
- Consider this.....would we give a gift to a friend and not wrap it? Would we take a present to a party and not put our name on it? Let's treat our weekly gift to God with the care and respect we would with any other gift we give, and wrap it with our name and number on it.

PUBLISH this list from time to time in your parish communications to remind all parishioners of the value of using envelopes

Stewardship Luncheons

SOUTHSIDE:

Thursday, March 1
11:30a.m.

Giovanna's Italian Kitchen
1375 Virginia Avenue
East Point, GA 30344

NORTHSIDE:

Tuesday, March 6
11:30a.m.

St. Peter Chanel Parish
11330 Woodstock Road
Roswell, GA 30075

Another great opportunity to network with stewardship leaders and share what your parishes are doing to enhance their stewardship efforts.

RSVP required

Contact Christine at
404-920-7605 or
cheusinger@archatl.com



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WE'VE MOVED!

Go to www.facebook.com/atlanta.stewardship and reconnect with us by clicking "Like" next to the title.

Second Collections at Missions?

Discipleship means that we care about one another. Discipleship means that the needs of the Church touch our hearts and inspire us to tend to the needs of others—whether those impacted by local floods and hurricanes that destroy the lives of people in our own nation or in lands that we have only just read about. It seems that all we require is a reminder of the need, and we open our lives in concern for other. It is a tradition that Paul began for the ancient Church, and we have been having 'second collections' since then—with no end in sight, as long as there is a need that we find!

Archbishop Wilton Gregory

Should missions in the Archdiocese of Atlanta hold second collections? The answer is a resounding "yes," and here's why...

Second collections help to enhance our awareness of needs in the wider Church —whether a Native American child on a North Dakota reservation, or a pilgrim to the Holy Land, or a refugee family in East Africa. The bishops in the United States created the national collections so that, by combining our resources, we can more effectively carry out our mission as Catholics. Each of the collections is worthy of support and represents our community of faith at its best—working in the world, improving lives, and saving souls.

Missions of the Archdiocese of Atlanta should be enforcing this sense of "community" as soon as the faithful begin to worship together. It's very important that the foundation of the mission be one of giving of itself to help others, even though there is need in the mission itself.

Jesus reminds us that the two greatest commandments are to love God with our whole heart, our whole mind, and our whole soul; and to love our neighbor as ourselves. The national collections offer us an opportunity to help our neighbors in light of the gospel. In doing so, we act as faithful stewards of the gifts God has given us.

Through our parishes and missions, every Catholic participates in a global community of faith. The national collections are a powerful expression of this community. Our contributions help people around the world, people who struggle to practice the faith, and people who live in great hardship.

Second collections are a stewardship learning moment. As Catholics we are part of a universal Church that extends well beyond our own parish boundaries. Jesus calls us to "make disciples of all nations" (Mt. 28:19). Through the second collection, we have a ready opportunity to give to those causes held up by our Church leaders as important in fulfilling that call of Our Lord.

ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA

STEVE SILER

Executive Director

CHRISTINE HEUSINGER

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404-920-7605

WEB ADDRESSarchatl.com/offices/stewardship**NEW!****CHECK IT OUT**

We have a **Weekly Giving Calculator** on our website now: go to

www.archatl.com/offices/stewardship

Connect with
the Archdiocese of Atlanta
Stewardship Office on

facebook

Offertory Enhancement Program

Wednesday, May 30
9:30a.m. – 2:00p.m.

*Catholic Center, 2401 Lake Park Drive
Smyrna, GA 30080*

At the specific request of Archbishop Gregory, the Office of Stewardship is offering a one-day seminar on "Enhancing Your Offertory" and we are very excited to have Dr. Charles E. Zech as one of our speakers. Dr. Zech is the author of *Why Catholics Don't Give...and What Can be Done About It* as well as *Best Practices in Parish Stewardship*. He is the Director of the Center for the Study of Church Management at Villanova University and a noted authority and frequent speaker on Catholic stewardship.

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CHARLES ZECH

We are happy Terry Poplava will be with us. Director of Marketing, Sales and Customer Service for Our Sunday Visitor, Terry works with parishes and dioceses to assemble product and service solutions to improve appeals and offertory, and to enhance community.

Bill Bannon, of Bannon Associates, designer of the Archbishop's Annual Appeal in-pew process, will also present at this seminar with his proposal for success. He believes that there is great potential for some parishes to increase their offertory, considering how much they exceeded their Appeal goals.

Archbishop Gregory requests that every pastor and parish administrator/business manager attend this conference! Parochial vicars are also encouraged to attend. Lunch will be provided.

RSVP to Christine:
404-920-7605 or
cheusinger@archatl.com

More on *Why We Have National Collections*

Each parish is part of the Church Universal; it is the Catholic Church in a particular place. The bishops of the United States created the national collections so that, by combining resources, we can more effectively carry out our mission as Catholics. Each of these important collections is worthy of your support. Each collection represents our community of faith at work in the world, saving souls and improving lives.

I encourage you to view the national collections in the light of stewardship and of sharing. God has given us our life and our prosperity, all we need and more. It is right and just that we give something back through these collections, helping people in our own country and around the world to live better and to grow in the love of Jesus.

Most Rev. William S. Skylstad

Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Spokane



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BISHOP SKYLSTAD

11th Annual ICSC Regional Stewardship Day Conference

Saturday, April 28, 2012

Hotel Reservation

Hotel Reservation Rates*

\$119 Standard Room

*for reservations made through March 28, 2012

Mention Program Name:

Regional Stewardship Conference



Hospitality & Early
Registration
Friday from 6-10 p.m.

For more information:

Christine Heusinger
Archdiocese of Atlanta
Office of Stewardship
(404) 920-7605

cheusinger@archatl.com

Bus Reservation

The Stewardship Office has reserved a luxury coach for the trip. However, **you MUST RESERVE your seat on the bus.** We will be departing from the Catholic Center at 3:00 pm on Friday, April 28 and a boxed meal will be provided. We will depart Charleston immediately following the last breakout session.



PLANNED SCHEDULE

9:00-9:30	Continental Breakfast and Registration
9:40-10:00	Opening Remarks and Prayer Service
10:00-10:45	Keynote Address
11:00-12:15	Breakout Session 1
12:15-1:15	Lunch
1:15-2:30	Breakout Session 2
2:30-3:00	Refreshment Break
3:00-4:15	Breakout Session 3
4:15-4:30	Atlanta people gather at bus
4:15-4:30	Break
4:30	Mass

Conference Registration Form

Please print clearly and complete one form for each participant Name:

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip _____

Parish: _____

Diocese: _____

Email Address: _____

\$40 pre registration or \$50 at the door. Fee Includes continental breakfast, conference materials, breaks & lunch.

Make checks payable to: "Diocese of Charleston"

Return form and payment to:

Office of Stewardship, 119 Broad Street
Charleston, SC 29401

Breakout Sessions

The following will be offered at the breakout sessions. Each session will be offered twice during the day. To help us plan the room assignments, please put a ✓ next to the THREE sessions that you are most likely to attend.

A PARISH PROFILE

St. Mary Magdalene Church, Newnan, GA

GROWING AN ENGAGED CHURCH

Deacon Bill Hampton
St. Matthew Church, Tyrone, GA

KEEPING STEWARDSHIP ALIVE

Jim Kelley, Director of Development
Diocese of Charlotte, NC

HOSPITALITY

Margo Truett
Pastoral Associate, St. Anne Church, Columbus, GA

STEWARDSHIP IN THE HISPANIC CULTURE

Reverend Teofilo Trujillo
Pastor, St. Mary Magdalene Church, Simpsonville, SC

MINISTRY FAIR

Pat Swoope
St. Anne Church, Rock Hill, SC