

We are stewards of all God's gifts – Daniel Conway, who lives with his family in Louisville, Kentucky

Pope Francis often speaks about “stewardship,” but he doesn’t always use the word. Instead, he uses various means of calling our attention to the simple, but all-important, fact that we are not the owners of our material and spiritual possessions. We are guardians, caretakers, administrators, custodians and, yes, stewards of all the gifts that were given to us by a generous and loving God.

In this context, it’s easier to understand the somewhat blunt—even harsh—statements the Holy Father makes about those who hoard their wealth instead of sharing it with those who are in need. “A few wealthy people possess more than all the rest of humanity,” the pope said in his General Audience on August 26, 2020. Then, in case anyone was distracted and didn’t hear him, the pope went on to say, “I will repeat this so that it makes us think: a few wealthy people, a small group, possess more than all the rest of humanity. This is an injustice that cries out to heaven!”

According to Pope Francis, the imbalance and inequity of the possession of wealth by the few over against the many has serious implications for the environment. “Care is not being taken of our common home. We are close to exceeding many limits of our wonderful planet, with serious and irreversible consequences,” the pope says. “From the loss of biodiversity and climate change to rising sea levels and the destruction of the tropical forests. Social inequality and environmental degradation go together and have the same root.”

Pope Francis calls this “the sin of wanting to dominate over one’s brothers and sisters, of wanting to possess and dominate nature and God himself.” But, he argues, “this is not the design for creation.” In fact, it is the very opposite of what we understand to be the practical spirituality of biblical stewardship principles.

When we recognize that we are stewards, not owners, our perspective shifts from “controlling” to “caring.” Pope Francis recalls the teaching of the Second Vatican Council which urges us to regard all our possessions not only as our own but also as held in common in the sense that they should benefit others besides ourselves. With this in mind, he cites the familiar passage from the Acts (2:44–45), “All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one’s need.”

This is not an argument against private property or the accumulation of wealth. It is an argument for taking care of and sharing all God’s gifts that is firmly based on the teaching of Jesus, as this is found in sacred Scripture and fully explained in Catholic social teaching. We are not owners, but caretakers, of all God’s creation.

Citing the Book of Genesis (1:28 and 2:15), Pope Francis reminds us that “God has called us to dominate the earth in his name, tilling it and keeping it like a garden, everyone’s garden. ‘Tilling’ refers to cultivating, ploughing or working, while ‘keeping’ means caring, protecting, overseeing and preserving.” The earth—our common home—was here before us, the pope says, and it has been given to us to take care of and share with everyone. “But be careful not to interpret this as a carte blanche to do whatever you want with the earth. No, there exists a ‘relationship of mutual responsibility’ between ourselves and nature. We receive from creation and we give back in return” (cf. *Laudato Si’* #67).

According to Pope Francis, the time for action, for a change in our whole outlook toward material possessions, is now. “When the obsession to possess and dominate excludes millions of persons from having primary goods; when economic and technological inequality are such that the social fabric is torn; and when dependence on unlimited material progress threatens our common home, then we cannot stand by and watch.” We must look to Jesus, the Holy Father says. Hope in him “moves the will to share, strengthening our mission as disciples of Christ who shared everything with us.”

We are stewards of all God’s gifts. May we have the courage to take care of and share all that we have received from God’s abundance.



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October 11, 2020

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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We are invited to live the house of the Lord for all eternity.

As we move to the end of another liturgical year, our readings begin to speak to us about the end times. Full of hope and encouragement, they are meant to spur us on to faithful Gospel living no matter what befalls us in this life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Isaiah tells of the great banquet the Lord will prepare for his people at the end of time. Paul writes to the Philippians, assuring them that he knows how to live in different sets of circumstances. In the Gospel, Jesus tells a parable likening the kingdom of heaven to a king hosting wedding feast for his son.

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Today’s Readings:

1st: Isaiah 25.6-10a

Psalm: 23

2nd: Philippians 4.12-14, 19-20

Gospel: Matthew 22.1-14

PASTOR: **Rev. Robert Wong, SJ**

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday

9:30 am – 1 pm / 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

MASS SCHEDULES

WEEKDAYS: **9:00 am**

SATURDAYS: **9:30 am & 5:00 pm**

SUNDAYS: **9:00 am & 11:00 am**

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

SATURDAYS: **4:30 pm – 4:55 pm**

CONFESSIONS: 10 MINUTES BEFORE DAILY

MASS OR BY REQUEST AT OTHER TIMES

NOVENA TO

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

WEDNESDAYS: **7:00 pm**

MASS FOLLOWED BY NOVENA
& BENEDICTION

BAPTISM COURSE

EVERY 2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT **6 pm**

BAPTISMS

4th SATURDAY AFTER 9:30 am MASS

HOUSE BLESSINGS

PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE

Happy Thanksgiving

Let us give praise and thanks to our God, the Father and Jesus, the Son with the Holy Spirit and Our Blessed Mother, Virgin Mary as we gather to ponder what are we most grateful for in this unusual Thanksgiving. It is not like any other Thanksgiving we can remember. Still there is still much to show our gratitude.

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Sunday Missal 2020 - 2021

We have ordered 350 copies of the *Living with Christ*, same as in previous years, anticipating our church will return to the normal schedule before the First Sunday of Advent. Meanwhile, you are encouraged to own a copy of the Missal for your perusal at home. \$5 a copy is a great investment for your faith life all year round. This new missal is available NOW. You can get your copy at the Office or in the church foyer. Thank you for keeping up your spiritual life with the Word of God.

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Project Advance 2020

Thank you to your support and generous response of our parish commitment to this year's appeal of the Archdiocese. Our share is \$13,000. Our total goal is \$40,000 plus expenses for the refurbished new floorings in the Parish Centre and classrooms. May the Lord bless you always!

Registered households who have not received the pledge card should have received Fr. Robert's letter for PA2020 and a pledge form in the mail to assist you in your participation. PLEASE respond when you are ready.

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Resumption of Saturday Morning Mass

Since the beginning of COVID, there was no Saturday morning Mass except on a few occasions. We have now resumed the Saturday 9:30am Mass. You will still need to register for this Mass as usual. You may phone the Office or send us a note by email for your Mass registration. Thank you for your cooperation.

A Stewardship Moment

There are a number of Bible verses Christians have memorized. One of them is in Saint Paul's letter to the Philippians found in this weekend's second reading: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (4:13). Most people define themselves either by their problems or their possibilities. Fearful people wake up each morning ensnared by their problems. Christian stewards wake up reflecting on their possibilities with confidence and hope. Some stewardship reflection questions for the week: What challenges do you back away from because you doubt that you are up to them? What would you attempt tomorrow if you were sure God would help you?

October is the month of Rosary

The 7th of October is Our Lady of the Rosary. You are encouraged to pray the mysteries of the Rosary with your family, fellow parishioners or personally. Our Church windows lay out the different mysteries beautifully and they are a great source for our prayerful contemplation. O Blessed Virgin Mary, pray for us.

A Stewardship Prayer for October

On October 11, 1962, Saint Pope John XXIII prayed the following prayer to open the Second Vatican Council. Thereafter, the bishops at the Council continued to pray this prayer together before every session.

We stand before you, Holy Spirit, conscious of our sinfulness, but aware that we gather in your name.

Come to us, remain with us, and enlighten our hearts. Give us light and strength to know your will, to make it our own, and to live it in our lives.

Guide us by your wisdom, support us by your power, for you are God, sharing the glory of Father and Son.

You desire justice for all: enable us to uphold the rights of others; do not allow us to be misled by ignorance; or corrupted by fear or favor.

Unite us to yourself in the bond of love and keep us faithful to all that is true.

As we gather in your name may we temper justice with love, so that all our decisions may be pleasing to you, and earn the reward promised to good and faithful servants.

You live and reign with the Father and the Son, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Knights of Columbus

59th Annual Charity Appeal

Tickets only \$3 - WIN \$177,000 in prizes - Limited Tickets!

1st Prize \$100,000

2nd Prize \$50,000

3rd Prize \$10,000

4th Prize \$5,000

5th Prize \$2,000

6th to 15th \$1,000 each

BUY YOUR Tickets ONLINE -

KofCDraw.net/C12861

Prizes will be drawn with the grand prizes and 12 consolation prizes on Saturday January 30, 2021

Mass Intentions

Oct 11-17, 2020

Mon, Oct 12 - 9am, Decena family (INT)

Tue, Oct 13 - 9am, Ricardo Fontejon (+)

Wed, Oct 14 - Jose Imperio (INT)

Thu, Oct 15 - 9am, Vera Hill (+)

Fri, Oct 16 - 9am, Excel Ancheta (+)

Sat, Oct 17 - Dominga Fernandes (+)