



## INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP

June 2023 • e-Bulletin

### A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER *for June*

#### **Gracious God,**

During this season of Easter, we know that your Son has offered us a peaceful awareness of his presence. He is always with us, but most times, we do not slow down enough to become aware of his presence. Help us to slow down and appreciate this gift, and come to a deeper understanding of his life and ministry through the power of your Spirit in our lives. Help us recognize those moments when Your Son has rescued us, healed us, and reconciled us. Increase our trust in him, show us how to reach beyond ourselves to witness his presence to others, and give us the wisdom to be better stewards and sacraments of Christ's presence each day.

We pray this in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**



## Celebrating the Body and Blood of Christ as "Stewards of the Gospel"

On Sunday June 11, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, or Corpus Christi, to celebrate the gift of the Eucharist. Of course, the best way to celebrate it is to live it, to put the Eucharist into action. None of us can be a mere spectator to the Eucharist, for this offering to God of bread and wine is really our offering to him of ourselves, of our lives and of the whole world. Jesus taught us this connectedness when he enjoined us to go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel (see Mark 16:15).

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The Eucharist invites us to be "stewards of the Gospel;" to follow in Jesus' footsteps and to love others just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. This is the meaning behind the language of blood sacrifice of which we will hear proclaimed in the weekend's readings. Blood is fundamentally life. The commitment to share in a common life, the covenant between God and Israel, was endorsed in blood, lots of it. Sacrifice was, and is necessary.

But how does the celebration of the Eucharist relate concretely to our ordinary day-to-day lives? At one level, the practice of going to Mass affirms our belief that there is something extraordinary in our ordinary, daily lives. We take time to acknowledge to ourselves, our



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families and our communities that we are engaged in a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

More deeply, however, is that the Eucharist transforms us. It provides a center of our being and a driving force that impels us to go out and “be” Christ to a broken world. We are nourished and strengthened in a profound way in order to build up the Body of Christ and carry out Jesus’ command to be missionary disciples.

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The theme for the 61st annual conference of the International Catholic Stewardship Council, to be held in Orlando, Florida, October 1 to 4, is *Eucharistic Stewardship: Responding with Grateful Hearts*, in response to the United States bishops’ call to form ourselves, and others, as stewards of the Eucharist. This conference will give us a wonderful opportunity to learn more about putting the Eucharist into action and to become “doers” of God’s Word through missionary discipleship, as individual Catholics, and as local Catholic communities of faith.

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ reminds us that we are each called to serve, uniquely equipped with gifts for missionary discipleship, and sent forth to carry the good news of the Gospel to all we meet wherever we go. And we are never alone in this journey of faith. Christ is with us in a real and most personal way.

## STEWARDSHIP SAINT for June



### Saint Anthony of Padua

Saint Anthony of Padua is one of the most beloved and admired saints in the Church. A Franciscan friar and a Doctor of the Church, he is considered one of the greatest preachers in the history of Christianity.

Anthony was born on the Feast of the Assumption in Lisbon, Portugal, in 1195 to a wealthy and educated family of the Portuguese nobility. He entered the Augustinian religious community at an early age where he devoted himself to the study of sacred scripture and Latin classics. He felt a call to

missionary work, however, and was given permission to join the Franciscan Order when he was 26 years old.

Anthony traveled tirelessly to preach what it meant to live according to the Gospel. He is believed to have made as many as 400 trips to towns in both northern Italy and southern France where he attracted people by the thousands. He was so popular a preacher that he often had to speak in public squares and marketplaces rather than churches.

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So simple, yet compelling and inspiring was Anthony’s teaching of the Catholic faith that he was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1946.

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Anthony knew that preaching was not enough to help people understand how to follow Jesus Christ. He believed he had to give witness to the Gospel by the way he lived his personal life. So, he adopted and maintained a simple lifestyle consistent with what he believed the Gospel was calling him to. He became one of Francis of Assisi’s favorite disciples and closest friend.

The last months of Anthony’s life were lived in Padua, Italy, with preaching, hearing confessions, and assisting those in debt. He died there on June 13, 1231 at the age of 36 and was proclaimed a saint less than one year after his death. So simple, yet compelling and inspiring was Anthony’s teaching of the Catholic faith that he was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1946.

Anthony is best known as the saint to whom one prays to find a lost article. When a novice took his Psalter without permission, Anthony prayed for the book’s return. After the novice was visited by a ghost in a frightening nightmare, he rushed to give the book back to Anthony. Many people do not know, though, that St. Anthony is the patron of other causes. He is the patron saint of Brazil and Portugal, the poor, barren women, harvests and those who travel. His feast day is June 13.

## 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference

# EUCHARISTIC Stewardship

Responding with Grateful Hearts

October 1-4, 2023 | Orlando, Florida



As a gathering of Catholic stewardship leaders and fund development professionals from across the United States, the ICSC Stewardship Conference offers creative ideas and resources to give dioceses, Catholic foundations, parishes and schools the tools, strategies and inspiration they need to serve all those with whom they encounter. **JOIN US!**

*“This conference has given me the opportunity to get away from the parish for a few days and get inspired, share ideas with other attendees who are from across the country and beyond, to focus on the mission of our Church and to better serve our faith community.”*

**Linda Maccarone**

Director of Parish Mission  
St. Mary Catholic Church

*“Post Pandemic, ICSC has been important to Catholic parish life as we struggle to regather our people and refresh offertory giving. We have found several insights in this regard.”*

**Father John Esper**

Pastor  
St. Vincent Ferrer Parish

## 2023 ICSC CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

### Sunday, October 1, 2023

8:00 am – 7:00 pm . . . . . Registration/Information Desk Open  
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm . . . . . Orientation for First Time Attendees  
3:30 pm – 5:30 pm . . . . . Mass of the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
and Opening Plenary Session  
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm . . . . . Welcome to Orlando Reception  
with the Exhibitors

### Monday, October 2, 2023

7:45 am – 9:15 am . . . . . Breakfast and Plenary Session  
9:30 am – Noon . . . . . Morning Conference Sessions  
Noon – 2:00 pm . . . . . Mid-day Break – Visit the Exhibitors  
2:00 pm – 4:30 pm . . . . . Afternoon Conference Sessions  
5:15 pm – 6:30 pm . . . . . Concelebrated Liturgy

### Tuesday, October 3, 2023

7:30 am – 8:30 am . . . . . Continental Breakfast with the Exhibitors  
8:30 am – 11:00 am . . . . . Morning Conference Sessions  
11:30 am – 12:30 pm . . . . . Concelebrated Liturgy  
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm . . . . . Mid-day Break – Visit the Exhibitors  
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm . . . . . Afternoon Conference Sessions  
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm . . . . . Afternoon Break with the Exhibitors  
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm . . . . . Afternoon Conference Sessions  
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm . . . . . ICSC Strategic Partners Appreciation and  
Awards Dinner

### Wednesday, October 4, 2023

8:30 am – 11:00 am . . . . . FOR PARISHES: Special BONUS Sessions  
FOR DIOCESES: Special BONUS Sessions  
Closing Prayer



# \$499

## Take advantage of the Members Only EASTER SEASON DISCOUNT!

Through June 4

# Ten Commandments for Welcoming Visitors at Mass



Welcoming newcomers to your parish is not just the job of the pastoral staff, ushers, ministers of hospitality or greeters. It is everyone's responsibility. Here are ten things you can do to provide better hospitality in your parish.

- 1. Cultivate the virtue of hospitality at Mass.** Many Mass attendees tend to gather into little cliques and ignore those who are not members of their particular clique. They are not really inhospitable, just heedless of the need for hospitality. Make hospitality a new habit when you go to Mass.
- 2. Come early, leave late.** Instead of rushing to Mass to be there on time, and then rushing out at its conclusion, make time to come a little early and linger just a bit later. Make room in your busy life to greet and spend time with others at Mass.
- 3. Go in peace to greet someone!** Seek out someone you've not met before. Shake their hand, introduce yourself, and take a few moments to welcome them to your parish home, God's house.
- 4. Welcome everyone.** Not only do visitors need your warm welcome, regular Mass attendees also need a friendly greeting. Develop a good handshake and be enthusiastic about your parish. You are greeting others in the name of Christ.
- 5. Help newcomers connect.** While you are getting to know visitors, introduce them to other parishioners as the opportunity presents itself. Feel free to invite visitors to sit next to you.
- 6. Say goodbye with genuine warmth.** After Mass, bid farewell to visitors, inviting them to return next week. Introduce them to the pastor if the opportunity arises.
- 7. Avoid parish business.** Avoid conducting parish business with others immediately before or after Mass. Focus on visitors.
- 8. Give visitors information about the parish.** Ensure that a visitor has a bulletin and other information about the parish before they leave. If there is a social gathering after Mass, invite them.
- 9. Be part of a greeting ministry team** Parishes are always in need of greeters to serve regularly, and provide ongoing formation to new greeters. Help out, be a greeter. If your parish doesn't have greeters, now is a good time to start!
- 10. Greet those who already minister in the area of hospitality.** It isn't necessary to neglect the people who are already ministers of hospitality in order to make visitors feel at home. A simple wave and a smile go a long way.

## Involving Young People in Sacred Liturgy is Good Stewardship

Now that your teen or college age young adult has received the sacrament of Confirmation, isn't it time to get them more deeply involved in the Mass? It is no secret that one of the best ways for a young person to nurture a greater love for the Eucharist is by a more active participation in the liturgy.



As good stewards of the faith life of teenagers and young adults, let's identify their gifts and invite them to a fuller participation at the table of the Lord.

The National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry has sought for many years to encourage greater participation by young people in the Mass. A publication from the Federation, *From Age to Age: The Challenge of Worship with Adolescents* (1997), started a national dialogue on how to get teenagers more involved in the Church's celebration of the Eucharist.

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Involvement by young people can include such liturgical activities as:

- Extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist
- Ushers
- Ministers of Hospitality
- Lectors/Readers
- Altar servers
- Gift bearers
- Cantors
- Musicians
- Choir members
- Leaders for Children's Liturgy of the Word



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As good stewards of the faith life of teenagers and young adults, let's identify their gifts and invite them to a fuller participation at the table of the Lord. Get them involved. Make them feel as though they are welcome as mature, responsible stewards of the life of the parish family. They will be enriched by the experience, and so will the faith community.

## Understanding Stewardship in a Complex World

In Saint John's Gospel, Jesus alludes to the lives of action his disciples will lead. He speaks to God about his followers: "I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one" (John 17:15). As a communion of Christian stewards, we live our Catholic faith in a challenging world. We see overwhelming problems and social ills, and we're bombarded from so many sides to take action. We are sometimes hit by "compassion fatigue," and often the issues are complex and our response unsure. However, we know that our Catholic faith is a communal faith, not meant to be lived in isolation. Our prayer and spirituality serve as a springboard to a life of Christian charity and service to others in some form or fashion.



Photo courtesy of [uscgb.org](http://uscgb.org)

There are a host of Catholic agencies that can help us better understand Catholic social teaching and how we apply that teaching to the complexity of world issues that surround us. Catholic Relief Services and Jesuit Refugee Services, to name just two, deal with international issues with a focus on faith, and Catholic Charities USA focuses on domestic issues. But are you aware that our United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) addresses many issues on the domestic and international front, through its educational resources

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as well as its activities? Many times, news reports focus on the Church's position on one or two issues. But in reality, the bishops are very active and outspoken on a wide range of social concerns, and by joining with them as people of faith we can create a united front that promotes positive change and enhances the common good.

Through its teachings and programs, the USCCB addresses issues such as human trafficking, hunger among our nation's poor, employment, health care, the environment, education and capital punishment.

Visiting [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) can bring you up to date on a wide range of issues and show you how you can help address them by applying the teachings of our Catholic faith. Together as a communion of faith we can make a difference as we live in this world as Christ directed even in these disquieting times.



## A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

### **The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity Weekend of June 3/4, 2023**

In today's second reading Saint Paul's final appeal is a call for unity. God created that unity. Good stewards who share Christ's life in the Eucharist belong to each other, just as God in the three persons of Father, Son and Holy Spirit enjoy unity. We are an intimate part of God's divine bond, God's "family." Saint Paul maintains that we ought to act that way. In the Church there is a bond of family, yet plenty room for variety. Christian stewards use their uniquely varied gifts to live a Trinitarian faith, in unity, promoting Christ's peace and justice. How do we promote unity in our parish?

### **Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ Weekend of June 10/11, 2023**

Among the compelling Eucharistic themes proclaimed in today's readings is the notion of "participation" as found in Saint Paul's letter to the Corinthians. Good stewards are part of a Eucharistic family: loving, welcoming, serving. An important part of living as a steward comes about in the many ways we can participate in the life of the Church. No matter how much time we have to give, no matter what our skills or interests, no matter what our level of commitment, there is a way to participate as a good steward to enrich our lives and the lives of others to build up the Body of Christ. How do you participate in the life of your parish?

### **Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Weekend of June 17/18, 2023**

In this weekend's Gospel reading from Saint Matthew, we hear of Jesus calling his disciples to enter into a partnership with him to advance his mission of healing, reconciling and proclaiming the Kingdom of God. Good stewards understand this mission to begin with gratitude and trust and a willingness to share the wonderful hospitality of God to all human beings. A good reflection for this week: How do we understand our call to enter into a closer partnership with Jesus and to bring the Good News to neighbors and strangers alike?

### **Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time Weekend of June 24/25, 2023**

Jesus minces no words with his disciples: If we acknowledge Jesus publicly, Jesus will remember us before God, our Father. If we deny Jesus, he will forget us. It is very rare that a Christian will denounce Jesus publicly. But we can deny Jesus in more subtle ways. There are many people who conveniently forget all about Jesus Christ and the work of his Kingdom in their daily lives, in moments of weakness, spiritual immaturity or when times get tough. Good stewards strengthen their confession of Christ by praying and attending Mass regularly, examining their lives and going to confession frequently, and reminding themselves daily that Christ resides in them. Take a look at your own daily life. Do you acknowledge Christ before others? How often do you remind yourself that Jesus lives in you?