

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

ST. JOHN'S JOURNAL

REFLECTING STEWARDSHIP AS A WAY OF LIFE

A WORD FROM OUR PRIEST ON THE YEAR FOR PRIESTS

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2009

BY FR. JIM COYNE

On the heels of the Year of St. Paul, Pope Benedict XVI has declared this the Year for Priests, which was established on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the death of the Curé d' Ars, St. John Baptist Mary Vianney. In contrast to Paul, the great apostle to the Gentiles who made several missionary journeys in order to spread the Gospel, John Vianney was a humble, French, parish priest who carried out his pastoral service in a small village for forty-two years. One brought the Gospel to many in various regions; the other welcomed thousands and thousands of the faithful while remaining in his own tiny parish.

What these two men have in common is their total identification with their own ministry, their communion with Christ, which made St. Paul say "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me" (Gal. 2:20). And St. John Mary Vianney used to like to repeat: "if we had faith, we would see God hidden in the priest like a light behind glass or like wine mixed with water." Pope Benedict's purpose in declaring the Year for Priests "is therefore to encourage every priest in striving for spiritual perfection on which, above all, the effectiveness of their ministry depends, and first and fore-

most to help priests and with them the entire People of God to rediscover and to reinforce their knowledge of the extraordinary, indispensable gift of Grace which the ordained minister represents for those who have received it, for the whole Church and for the world which would be lost without the Real Presence of Christ."

A priest is said to be "alter Christus (mother Christ). Although that is a reasonable description, I prefer to see my role as a servant leader. I am called to show forth the love of Christ to others by serving them. In celebrating the Eucharist

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EDITOR'S LETTER

It occurred to me the other day that I will never be done, I'll never be finished, I will have something to do until the day I die. It may be an obvious statement to most of you, but it was an epiphany for me. I often feel burdened and run down with all the tasks I have yet

to complete, all the events I have yet to attend, all the milestones I have yet to experience, all the laundry, floors, animals, children, kitchens and bed linens to which I must tend. Your list may be different. But we'll always have a list.

BY GRETCHEN OJALA

There is a book called "Don't Sweat the Small Stuff (and it's all small stuff)" by Richard Carlson, Ph.D. I found this book sitting in an office waiting room and picked it up. It's a simple book to read with short chapters on different sub-

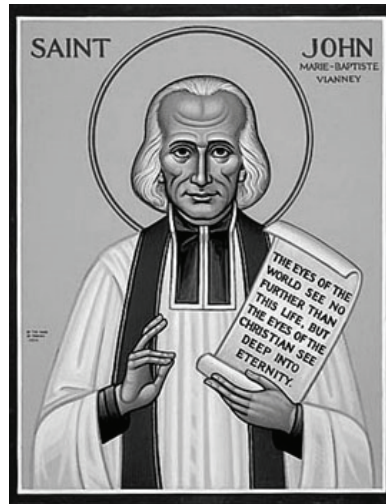
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...A WORD FROM OUR PRIEST CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

and the other sacraments, in preaching the Word, in visiting the sick, in counseling those in need, I have the opportunity to be a servant of the Lord. I am indeed thankful to the Lord for the more than thirty-four years of priesthood that has been granted me. Please pray that the Lord might heal my deficiencies and that I might grow

in my strengths. Above all, thank you for your patient love. You are precious. I love you all. May the Lord help each of us exercise the priesthood that comes from our baptism. As I am fond of saying: "We are all in this together!"



Prayer for Priests

O Jesus, I pray for Your faithful and fervent priests; for Your unfaithful and tepid priests; for Your priests laboring at home or abroad in distant mission fields; for Your tempted priests; for Your lonely and desolate priests; for Your young priests; for Your dying priests; for the souls of Your priests in purgatory.

But above all, I recommend to You the priests dearest to me; the priest who baptized me; the priests who absolved me from my sins; the priests at whose Masses I assisted and who gave me Your Body and Blood in Holy Communion; the priests who taught and instructed me; all the priests to whom I am indebted in any other way [especially ...]. O Jesus, keep them all close to Your heart, and bless them abundantly in time and in eternity. Amen.

St. John Vianney, pray for us; obtain for us many and holy priests.

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...EDITOR'S LETTER CONTINUED

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jects, each chapter is a complete concept, so it's easy to read in short increments. The chapter which furnished the epiphany was titled "Your In-Basket will Never be Empty." While reading this chapter a sense of peace came over me. It was an ah-ha moment for me to realize I'm not the only one whose life is in constant motion and I don't have to keep trying to finish. Life is our In-Basket!

I think this is an important epiphany because as we observe our lists, we must then set our priorities. What comes first and what comes last? What is most important, what is least important? Life is about balance, we just need to figure out the best balance for ourselves.

We live in a culture in constant motion. How we navigate through it is what we allow to take priority in our

in-baskets. When the author of "Don't Sweat the Small Stuff" adds in his title "and it's all small stuff," his point is with time, everything will be completed whether we worry about it or not. One of the chapters encourages the reader to think about whether the "stuff" will be important in a year. If we can remove ourselves from our anxiety and worry about the "stuff" and look ahead to determine whether the "stuff" will be important, or even remembered, in a year, the "stuff" would possibly have a different priority in our lives.

When we feel tired and burdened, we often neglect what is most important. Usually, what ends up being most important are the people in our lives. I can guarantee you our children will not remember how clean their house was growing up, but they will remember how much time they spent with their parents.

We have much "stuff" going on in our lives, but we don't have to sort through our in-baskets alone. We can ask God to help. In Matthew 11:28-29, Jesus says "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

There is an opportunity this month at an all-parish mission to reflect on our daily lives and connect our routines and burdens to God, so we can learn God's plan for our in-baskets. Much of this newsletter is about the mission. I believe we can all be stewards to our parish and community. Maybe you'll decide to put the mission in your in-basket and make it a priority for yourself. Everyone needs help now and then working through their in-basket.

Join Us!
All-Parish
Stewardship
Mission
Monday & Tuesday
October 19th & 20th
7:00 pm

**See the full add on
 the calendar page!**

STEWARDSHIP MISSION: TIME FOR REFLECTION

BY TOM GORNICK

On Monday of the mission, we will reflect on the routine in our lives as not burdens but really our vocation; as the Holy Father says our "projects for God." The second night will focus on Jesus the perfect disciple of God. St. Paul, in his letter to the Philippians, shares with us one of our Church's most ancient hymns of praise and understanding of Jesus. Using Philippians Chapter 2 verses 3 to 11 as a source of reflection, the parish is invited to spend two evenings considering discipleship, be-

ing followers of Jesus, and who this Jesus is whom we claim. Can all of our busy days be part of God's plan? What is important? What gives us life? Does all of our feverish activity have meaning? What gives us strength? What gives us refreshment? These questions and others are part of our culture. They challenge our discipleship! We need to take time to reflect on their meaning and how our concerns connect us to God, His Son and the people in our lives. Discipleship begins in a

change of heart, a turning toward the Lord and is lived out in stewardship - a way of life that recognizes everything as gifts to be shared. Everyone is invited to bring all of their cares and "to do" lists. Take just one hour Monday and Tuesday and consider what gives life and joy. Consider that perhaps everything on our full plates may be God's project for us and it is good. As the hymn in Paul says, Jesus came "in human likeness ...he humbled himself", He shares our cares and con-

cerns, takes them upon himself and returns them to the Lord that we may know God's love and friendship now and in the life to come. Discipleship is not a burden but a way of life that allows one to walk knowing the cares and burdens of the day are truly light and we need not stress or fear. Almost fifteen years ago I walked away from a great job, well paid, fine home and discovered all those things were good but not necessary to be satisfied or fulfilled.

WHO IS TOM GORNICK?

BY TOM GORNICK



Deacon Thomas W. Gornick currently serves as Director for the Department of Evangelization, Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon. After a successful marketing career in the information industry, he joined the archdiocesan staff in January 1998 as Director

for the Office of Stewardship. Deacon Gornick earned a Bachelors of Art with Special Honors in American Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. He completed a Certificate in Theology from the Pontifical College of the Josephinum and was ordained Deacon by Bishop James A. Griffin for the Diocese of Columbus, February 1, 1997. In addition, Deacon Gornick served as a member and co chair of the United States Commission for Catholic Evangelization established by the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Evangelization (BCE). He was Founder/Co Chair for the North American Institute for Catholic Evangelization held in 2003 and 2006.

Deacon Gornick has been the

featured speaker at national and international meetings in addition speaks to diocesan and parish groups across the United States, including the Archdioceses of Seattle, Anchorage, Milwaukee, Hartford, Vancouver, BC and the dioceses of Great Falls-Billings, Yakima, Peoria, San Diego, Spokane, Wheeling and Columbus.

In 1995 Deacon Gornick authored an independent study entitled "**Stewardship: Faith or Money?**" examining diocesan implementation of the stewardship pastoral. He has also written on stewardship for Church Magazine.

In the larger Portland community, Deacon Gornick serves as Past -President of

the Board of Directors for DePaul Industries, a corporation dedicated to employing people with disabilities; a member of the Catholic-Jewish Dialog; Senior Vice President of the Board for the Cascade Pacific Council of the Boy Scouts of America as well as Scout Chaplain to Boy and Girl Scout units in Western Oregon. In addition he has served as a member of the Board for Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. Deacon Gornick is assigned to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Portland, Oregon.

Deacon Gornick is married to Mary Jo and they have two married children, Anastasia and Peter.

PUTTING THE "STEW" IN STEWARDSHIP

BY GRETCHEN OJALA
FOR THE STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION

What goes into a stew?
When I make a stew, I put in carrots, celery, onions, cubed steak, beef stock, potatoes. I like a thick, hearty stew, with just enough of all the ingredients. Stew can be a complete meal on its own; you have servings of vegetables, starches and protein. Often times, it's considered a comfort food, something warm and satisfying, made with love.

We can treat Stewardship the same as we treat stew. Webster's New World dictionary defines a steward as "a person morally responsible for the careful use of money, time, talents, or other resources, especially with respect to the principles or needs of a community or group." At St. John's we declare "The Catholic community of St. John the Baptist: Where stewardship is a way of life and the diversity of our gifts answers Christ's call to proclaim and live the Gospel!" It seems we are all interested in making "stew, but sometimes, it seems we all have different recipes. We need all the right "ingredients" to make stewardship a successful part of St. John's parish life.

So what are the right ingredients for our "stew"? Of course, we need people. People are the basic "stock" of a stewardship community. We need people's time, talent and treasure to add more

flavor to our "stew." We need people who carry out stewardship and we need people who need stewards. We need lots of people, because not everyone has the same skills and talents or even the same time or money. We need different ethnic groups, because they add richness to our parish and are the historical backbone of America. We need our preschoolers, middle-schoolers, and teens. We need parents and grandparents, single people and married people. We need divorced and widowed people. We need all these different people because they all have different experiences and bring different flavors to our stew.

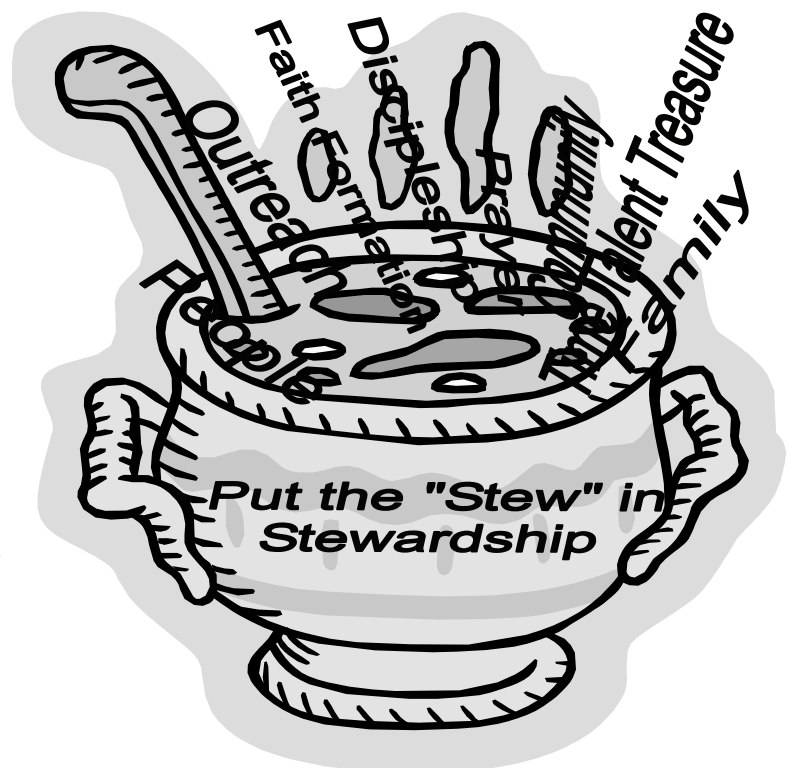
Then, when we gather all the people, we need to share what we bring. Without the carrots the stew wouldn't be the same. When I was a child I used to vow I would never use onions for anything, but we adults (or at least those of us who cook) miss the flavor those onions add.

Then the last and final ingredient of our Stewardship "stew, we need each and every parishioner to partake in the feast. Everyone has some-

thing to offer: young, elderly, rich, poor, those in pain, and those who are joyful. People are the stock of our stew; without the stock, there would be nothing but pieces, no unifying ingredient to the stew. So we bring what we have and share what we have brought.

We, the Stewardship Commission, are aware of missing ingredients in our parish's stewardship commitment. We are working to form a common understanding of Stewardship. For this reason we are offering an all-parish Stewardship mission. Deacon Tom Gornick from the Portland Archdiocese will talk about how to connect our

daily routines to God to better live out our Stewardship mission. Mr. Gornick will speak at all the masses on October 17th and 18th. On Monday the 19th and Tuesday the 20th, at 7:00 pm, he will continue his stewardship message with an all-parish mission. We invite you not only to attend this mission as your contribution to our "stew", but to join us for dinner the hour before, from 5:45 pm to 6:45 pm. All are welcome to join us for dinner and youth and teens are encouraged to join us for the mission. There will be childcare provided for younger children. Bring yourself, your family, a friend; we don't want to miss any ingredients!



THE WINTERED SPIRIT

SUBMITTED BY NANCY SCHMITT

*How can you believe in the softness of a flower petal
when your heart has turned to stone?*

*How can you dream of an easy rain
when all your love is frozen in glaciers of loss?
How can you hope for fruit to form on the tree
when you can hardly hang on to life each day?*

*How can you find the promise in a seed
when your heart is lost in the depths of depression?*

*How can you sense the stirrings of a butterfly
when your energy is cocooned in sorrow?*

It takes immense trust and hope to see new life waiting beneath the frozen, barren land.

It takes deep courage to remain in the cave of loneliness and painful solitude.

It takes powerful faith to believe in the gestation of a positive future when all is unknown.

It takes compassionate patience to remain by the side of an aching seed in the silent soil.

It takes stout-hearted resilience to endure the soul's contractions of seemingly endless birthing.

It takes vulnerable openness to stay present to deadness and not run from staleness.

We wait for new life, but we do not wait alone.

We wait with the mother bear as the little cub within her takes shape and form.

We wait with the dormant juices of the maple trees gathering up sweetness in their empty limbs.

We wait with the grapes in the vat fermenting and turning themselves into full, red wine.

We wait with the pruned rose bushes sighing for warming sun to sing them into budding.

We wait with the frozen creeks and rivers yearning to be melted into laughing waters.

We wait with all humans whose weary lives turn slowly toward re-awakened joy.

We wait with the cosmos which is ever dying and being reborn, giving away and receiving anew.

And while we wait, we struggle to accept winter as a necessary companion, an inner season calling us to be more than we now are, a confident guide taking us on a perilous journey that is part of every dying and every birthing.

It is in the winter of our lives that the enduring Voice within coaxes us along, nudges us into belief, urges us to stay in the dark for as long as it takes for rebirthing to occur.

In our wintered time, it is this One who draws us close, nestles us near to heart, breathes strength into our spiritual bones, and assures us that we are growing wings under the frozen land of our desolate and emptied self.

Joyce Rupp

The Wisdom in these words of Joyce Rupp can be *our* experience if we but give ourselves the time, the patience and perseverance it takes to 'wait' with an open heart and an open mind.

The season of Advent offers us a time to withdraw and wait for the quiet voice of God to birth new life into us. As we approach the season of Advent, have you thought about how *you* will "wait"? Perhaps each week you could do one less thing. Or how about getting up a little earlier in the morning to be present to the dark holy stillness of the beginning of a new day, or spending time in the evening reflecting on the birth narratives in the gospel of Luke. The little "Blue Books" for Advent reflection will be offered again this year as a means to spend some time each day reflecting on the daily scripture readings. And on Saturday Dec. 5th from 9:00am to noon you are invited to spend the morning with others in our community singing Advent songs of praise, listening to spiritual readings and having an opportunity to spend some time in silent prayer.

The Apostolic Formation Committee wishes our parish family and their loved ones a very blessed and fruitful Advent season!

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

As we approach the holiday season, we need to remember the real reason for the season and try to slow down. An effective way to keep ourselves centered in the season is to give thanks for the blessings we have been given. I offer three prayers of Thanksgiving for everyone use during this sometimes chaotic season. Perhaps we can all take time with our families after meals and pray one of these prayers of thanks.

*We Give Thanks for all your benefits,
almighty God,
who lives and reigns forever.*

*May the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God,
rest in peace.
Amen*

*Dear Lord:
Today we give thanks
For our many blessings
As we pray for those in need.*

*We give thanks
For our family and friends
For our family and friends*

*We give thanks for our freedoms
As we pray for those who are oppressed*

*We give thanks for our good health
As we pray for those who are ill.*

*We give thanks for our comfort and prosperity
As we share our blessings with others.*

*On this day of Thanksgiving,
May the love of God enfold us,
The peace of God dwell within us
And the joy of God uplift us.
Amen*

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*Father in Heaven,
Creator of all
and source of all goodness and love,
please look kindly upon us
and receive our heartfelt gratitude
in this time of giving thanks.*

*Thank you for all the graces and blessings
You have bestowed upon us,
spiritual and temporal:
our faith and religious heritage,
our food and shelter,
our health,
the love we have for one another,
our family and friends.*

*Dear Father, in Your infinite generosity,
please grant us continued graces
and blessing throughout the coming year.*

*This we ask in the Name of Jesus,
Your Son and our Brother.
Amen*

SACRAMENTS ~ JULY-SEPTEMBER

Baptisms:

Seri Lynn Fix
Ethan Michael Nonthaveth
Abigail Grace Fechser
Rowan Troy Santos
Jack Edward Altenbrun
Ghianela Camila Ghilino
Landon Marcelo Suon
Cade Evan Walter
Madelyn Claire Junga

Deaths:

Michael Kelly
Arthur Joseph Paul, Jr.
Laura Rose Sherrard

CALENDAR OCTOBER ~ DECEMBER

October

- Oct. 13 Facility & Grounds Commission
 Oct. 17 Leadership Convocation with
 Deacon Tom Gornick
 Oct. 18 Coffee & Donuts
 Charismatic Praise & Worship
 Oct. 19 & 20 Parish Mission with
 Deancon Tom Gornick
 (begins with supper at
 5:30 p.m.; mission at 7 p.m.)
 Oct. 22 Finance Council
 Oct. 24 Widowed Information &
 Consultation Services (WICS) Auction
 Oct. 25 Charismatic Praise & Worship
 Oct. 26 Scripture Study
 Religious Formation Commission

November

- Nov. 1 All Saints Day (regular
 Mass schedule)
 Charismatic Praise & Worship
 Nov. 2 All Souls Day – Mass at
 9:00a.m.; Prayer Service
 at 7:30 p.m.
 Scripture Study
 Nov. 6 Eucharistic Adoration
 (9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.)
 Green Thumb Garden Club
 Taize Prayer Service
 Nov. 7 Senior High Convention
 New Member Welcome
 Gathering
 Craft & Hobby Group
 Nov. 9 Scripture Study
 Nov. 10 Facility & Grounds Commission
 Nov. 11 Veteran's Day – Office Closed
 Nov. 12 Veteran's Day Mass, 6:30 p.m.
 Nov. 13 Creative Kindness Sewing
 Group
 7th & 8th Grade Retreat
 Nov. 14 7th & 8th Grade Retreat and
 Adopt-a-Road
 Baptism Preparation Class

- Nov. 15 Coffee & Donuts
 Charismatic Praise & Worship
 Nov. 16 Pastoral Council
 Social Action Commission
 Scripture Study
 Nov. 18 Tot Time Group
 Nov. 19 Finance Council
 Nov. 20 Fish Fry (sponsored by Knights
 of Columbus)
 Nov. 21 Blood Drive
 Nov. 21 First Reconciliation for Chil-
 dren
 Nov. 22 Charismatic Praise & Worship
 Nov. 23 Religious Formation Commiss
 Scripture Study
 Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Day Mass,
 10:00 a.m. – Office Closed
 Nov. 27 Thanksgiving Holiday –
 Office Closed
 Nov. 28 Thanksgiving Holiday –
 Office Closed
 Nov. 29 Charismatic Praise & Worship
 Nov. 30 Scripture Study

December

- Dec. 2 Tot Time Group
 Dec. 4 Eucharistic Adoration
 (9:30 a.m. – 6:00
 p.m.)
 Green Thumb Garden Club
 Taize Prayer Service
 Dec. 5 Advent Day of Reflection
 Dec. 6 Charismatic Praise & Worship
 Dec. 8 Feast of the Immaculate
 Conception (Mass at 9:00am
 & 7:30 p.m.)
 Facility & Grounds Commission
 Dec. 10 Stewardship Commission

- Dec. 11 Creative Kindness Sewing Grp
 Dec. 12 **HUSKY SEAT CUSHION
 PROJECT**
 Dec. 13 Charismatic Praise & Worship
 Dec. 16 Tot Time Group
 Dec. 17 Finance Council
 Dec. 18 Simbang Gabi Mass &
 Celebration
 Dec. 19 Advent Reconciliation Srvc 2:00
 Dec. 21 Pastoral Council
 Social Action Commission
 Dec. 24 Christmas Eve – Office Closed
 Masses at 4:00 p.m.,
 7:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.
 Dec. 25 Christmas Day – Office Closed
 Mass at 10:00 a.m.
 Dec. 26 Christmas Holiday –
 Office Closed
 Dec. 27 Charismatic Praise & Worship
 Dec. 28 Religious Formation Commiss

Join Us! All-Parish Stewardship Mission

**Monday & Tuesday
 October 19th & 20th 7:00 pm
 Dinner provided 5:30-6:45**

**Bring the whole family!
 Youth & Teens encouraged to
 Attend!**

**Childcare (3 mo. To 4th grade)
 and transportation by
 reservation**

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
CATHOLIC CHURCH

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