Stewardship for Life

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE :: CAMPUSES: CHRIST THE KING, CAMBRIDGE :: ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON, ISANTI

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

When I was ordained in 2007, I had an understanding that an assignment meant serving multiple parishes. Within each assignment, I have aways understood that I had one assignment and I treated the parishes in that assignment as one parish. Shure, there were groups within a given parish that were separate from groups in another parish, but it was always one assignment. My heart was never split until recently.

When Saints Peter and Paul decided not to be part of the merger, and separated themself from Christ the King and Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, my heart became divided. For the first time in my priesthood, it became apparent that I had two distinct and separate assignments. I had one parish trying to hold tightly to what once was, and I also had the mission to bring the other two parishes together.

It is thus that bishop asked for my resignation from Saints Peter and Paul. He knew that I would not be able to serve effectively with a divided heart.

Now I have the task of pastoring the new parish of Our Lady Queen of Peace with two campuses. The Christ the King campus has been named the parochial church, or primary campus. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton has been named the partner church. I realize that some people are hurt by this decision. I can empathize, but we don't need a divided heart. We need to find strength in unity.

As the parochial church, the Christ the King Campus will have two Sunday Masses, 4:00pm Saturday evening and 10:30am Sunday morning, while St. Elizabeth will retain the 8:30am Sunday morning Mass.

As a parish, the sacraments will be celebrated. We will visit the sick and bring the love of Jesus to one another. Together we will grow. I understand that some groups will remain separate, but we must not have a divided heart. As a parish we need to work together.

In August, I ceased the moment and brought "Healing the Whole Person" to our community. This Fall, I am leading the "Be Healed" book study. On February 19-21, we will once again have an opportunity to experience the "Healing the Whole Person" retreat. This retreat will be held at the Christ the King church hall. You can sign up at the hospitality desk.

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October 2026, 4th Edition

As a new parish, we have much ahead of us, but much will remain the same. The canonical merger has taken place, and the civil merger will follow in the next few months. For now, I would ask that you continue to write your checks to Christ the King or Saint Eizabeth Ann Seton. Once the civil merger is complete, you will be able to write checks to Our Lady Queen of Peace.

Please continue to pray for me and our parish community. Please continue to share your gifts as God calls you to serve. Please continue to support our parish community as you teach your children about tithing. If you need a little inspiration, or want to learn more about stewardship, you might check out Brigitte's article. It is well written.

Blessings, Fr. Peter

WALK THROUGH THE WOODS

Written by **Roger Schoenecker,** 1970
For my sons and daughters

Don't run through the woods when you get there
You may be quicker but you'll miss your share
Of the wonders of flowers and trees and birds
So before you scamper hear these words:



When you walk through the woods you will see
The floating fold of the honeybee
Streams of sunlight and pools of shade
And toadstools sleeping in mossy jade
Treetops scratching against the blue
And a cobweb net with a catch of dew
Dancing flowers and bright green flies
And birds that put rainbows in your eyes

When you walk through the woods you will hear
A million sounds in your little ear
The scream of the hawk in the distant sky
The purr of leaves as a breeze skitters by
The scratch and rattle of wind tossed trees
And the sudden runs as a chipmunk flees
Brooks that mumble, stones that ring
And birds that teach your heart to sing



When you walk through the woods you will feel
That no mere man could make this real
Could paint the throb of the hummingbird's wing
Could teach the hermit thrush to sing
Could give the wonders of earth and sky
These are all greater than you and I

When you walk through the woods and the birch trees nod
Children, meet a friend of yours.
His name is God.

PRAYER: SAINT WHO?

Asters, Goldenrod, Jewelweed and Clover… can you describe one of these for me now? Wait, are you scratching your head trying to get a visual in your mind? These are wildflowers, almost all of them native to our country. If you saw a picture you'd likely realize you have seen them before, or, maybe you wouldn't. What about a Rose, Lily, Tulip, or Carnation… can you picture these in your mind? If I asked you to describe them, could you? I knew you could, good job! So why couldn't you describe the first four flowers I listed as easily? What makes them different? And what in the world does any of this have to do with saints and prayer, right?

Enter, St. Thérèse of Lisieux. St. Thérèse, oftentimes referred to as the "Little Flower," was a French Carmelite Nun of the 19th century. It wasn't until Tuberculosis claimed her life at the young age of 24 that the world met this little nun, this remarkable soul. It was then that her memoir, The Story of a Soul, became public, the writings she had kept were able to be read, and her "Little Way" became incredibly influential. In her book, she explains her theology of the "Little Way" and all of a sudden holiness feels a bit more doable, at least to many of us.

"Perfection consists in doing his will, in being what he wills us to be."

--St. Thérèse



This story really is about wildflowers!

St. Thérèse wrote:

"And so it is in the world of souls, Jesus' garden. He willed to create great souls comparable to lilies and roses, but he has created smaller ones and these must be content to be daisies or violets destined to give joy to God's glances when he looks down at his feet."

We can't all have the great minds of St. Thomas or St. Augustine. We can't all have the courage and boldness of St. Francis or St. Joan of Arc. We might never be called to give our lives bravely to defend our faith. Those callings are beautiful and special and reserved for a few "roses and lilies." But… as moms, can we clean the toilet without complaining? As dads, can we move the toys off the lawn when we mow without grumbling that someone else should've done it? As kids, can we take the dog out without being asked?

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Can we do these mundane, small, no-one-ever-notices, nobody-will-give-you-credit-for… tasks… with great love? Now hang on a second, just because they are "little" tasks compared to martyrdom does not mean they are easy to do. If this was an easy theology to live out, it wouldn't be a theology bringing us closer to God or growing in our path to holiness! Sanctification is challenging. BUT, we are ALL called to it, no matter where we are in life, no matter who we are. We might not be called to something we or the world thinks is huge, but does that mean we cannot be beautiful or known and loved by God?

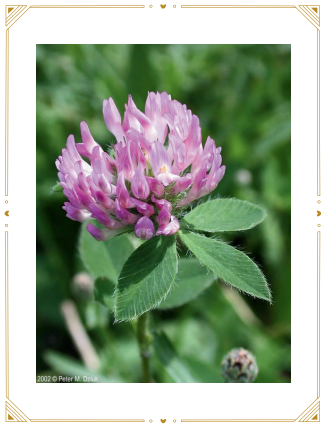
Can you see it? Do you see the secret? The secret to holiness really is that we have to step off the nicely paved path that is easy to walk on… get off that thing! Your legs might get scratched and you might even get stung a few times… but look down. There they are, once you're off the path… the wildflowers are all growing right there at your feet! They are so beautiful, just like the Rose and Lily are, exactly how God created them to be.



NEW ENGLAND ASTER



GOLDENROD



RED CLOVER



JEWELWEED

"Just as the sun shines simultaneously on the tall cedars and on each little flower as though it were alone on the earth, so Our Lord is occupied particularly with each soul as though there were no others like it." - - St. Thérèse, the Little Flower

HOSPITALITY: SOCIAL CONCERNS

What are the social concerns of the Catholic Church?

Did you know that our Parishes have a Social Concerns Committee?

The Social Concerns Committee is based on the 7 Themes of the Catholic Social Teachings.
These Themes are:

1) Life and dignity of the human person. Human life is sacred and the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society.
2) Call to family, community and participation. People have the right to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all.
3) Rights and responsibilities. Every person has a fundamental right to life and to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities to one another, to our families and to the larger society.
4) Option for the poor and vulnerable. We are to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.
5) The dignity of work and the rights of workers. The economy must serve the people, not the people serving the economy.
6) Solidarity. We are one human family. We are to pursue justice and peace.
7) Care for God's creation. Care for the earth is a requirement of our faith. We are to show respect for the Creator.



Catholic Social Teaching is the doctrine to help us all apply the teachings of Jesus Christ to our communal, social life. Through baptism, each of us is empowered to live our life to the fullest and to participate in the ministry of the Church by living and practicing Catholic Social Teaching. This brings us to the Our Lady Queen of Peace and Sts. Peter and Paul Parishes Social Concerns Committee. The purpose of this committee is to support the Pastor or Parish Administrator in advancing the Church's mission of charity and justice within our parishes and beyond. The committee promotes education, service, advocacy and social action according to Catholic Social Teaching and oversees requests for financial and material assistance consistent with our parish's mission. It helps identify community needs and organizes charitable projects and services. Parishioner involvement in works of mercy, justice and peace is encouraged by the committee.

Our giving envelopes provide quarterly opportunities to contribute to the Local Charities Good Samaritan Fund. These donations provide assistance to those in need within our community. This assistance can be in the form of financial aid or other services we can recommend. There is a confidential application and interview process which guides the committee on how they can best help each person in need. This committee has assisted parishioners as well as others in our community. Thirty adults and 571 children have been helped so far this year. The Social Concerns Committee is very grateful for the support of our parishioners through your generosity of time, talent and treasure.

REFERENCES:
USCCB
LAZARUS AT THE TABLE, CATHOLICS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE BY BERNARD F. EVANS

OUR LIVES, OUR GIFTS, OUR STEWARDSHIP, A WAY OF LIFE






By **Brigitte Illg**

I am sitting in my office at home, on a particularly cool day in May, thinking about stewardship. Of course, the first thing that pops into my mind are the 3 T's: time, talent & treasure. Time (prioritizes our relationship with God), Talent (God expects us to cultivate and use our gifts) and Treasure (our material resources). This is what stewardship means according to Stewardship Success by Eric & Lisa McArdle. The 3 T's are the heart of stewardship and are how we learn to give of ourselves. But there are more types of stewardship. We have stewardship of the environment. How do we take care of this world that we live in and what is our responsibility towards it? Here I can also see a stewardship of our homes, workplaces, parishes. What are we doing to keep and maintain them as loving spaces?

There is stewardship of relationships. How do we treat and care for one another? Do we think of Catholic social teaching? What do we do when we see even a small injustice? Who are our hearts open to and who are they closed off to?

There is a stewardship of health. How are we treating ourselves, our bodies, and minds? Are we taking care of our bodies, resting, exercising, eating right. Do we have space for God? I am sure we could find others, but I wonder if you are starting to see a pattern too? What I see showing up is a heart of love and caring, personal responsibility, love for God and each other. What do we want for ourselves and the next generations?

What does this all mean for those 3 T's? How do we begin? By considering the four pillars (as cited in the book Stewardship Success by Eric and Lisa McArdle.) They are hospitality, prayer, formation, and service. These are the where, and the way that we live out our discipleship together. **Hospitality** - making people feel welcomed, loved, and cared about. **Prayer** - Mass is our pinnacle of parish prayer life, and our source and summit. How are we putting God first in our own personal way? **Formation** - Growing and sharing your talents offered at every age. **Service** - Offering yourself to each other and the broader community.

Did you know that your individual family is called a Domestic Church? What is a domestic church? This is the first place that faith is lived, taught, and passed on. In this light, can you see how the four pillars come into play, and build that strong foundation? How it would be natural to build out from our homes/domestic churches to our parishes, to our places of work and perhaps even beyond.

Stewardship, then, is not simply about what we give, but about how we live. It is woven into our homes, our parish life, our relationships, our work, and the quiet choices we make each day. When we put God first and root ourselves in hospitality, prayer, formation, and service, the 3 T's begin to grow naturally from a faithful heart. Perhaps stewardship is ultimately an invitation: to care well for what God has entrusted to us, to love generously, and to leave behind a stronger foundation of faith for the generations that follow. In a world that often moves too fast, stewardship gently calls us back to what matters most — God, one another, and the sacred responsibility of living as disciples together.



OKTOBERFEST

OCTOBER 24 FROM 4-7PM IN THE CHRIST THE KING PARISH HALL.

JOIN US FOR A FUN-FILLED FAMILY EVENING FEATURING A DELICIOUS ROAST BEEF DINNER WITH ALL THE FIXINGS, ALONG WITH BEER, A BASKET RAFFLE, WINE WHEEL, AND RAFFLE. COME ENJOY GREAT FOOD, FELLOWSHIP AND A WHOLE LOT OF FUN. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.

THEOLOGY DAY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29 FROM 6:30-9PM CHRIST THE KING PARISH HALL.

FEATURING FR. DALE LAUNDERVILLE, OSB.
HIS TALK: CALLED TO BE HOLY: LIVING FAITH IN EVERYDAY LIFE.
THIS IS A FREE EVENT, PLEASE PREREGISTER ONLINE
WWW.THEOLOGYDAY.COM | EMAIL THEOLOGYDAY@CSBSJU.EDU | OR CALL 320-363-3560 PLEASE INCLUDE THE EVENT DATE, FULL NAME, MAIL ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER AND EMAIL WITH MESSAGES

VIKINGS VS PACKERS QUILT RAFFLE

THE RAFFLE DRAWING WILL BE ON **NOVEMBER 15TH.**

ARE YOU PURPLE OR GOLD? THE RIVALRY IS HEATING UP! ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A ONE-OF-A-KIND QUILT FEATURING YOUR FAVORITE TEAM. PICK YOUR TEAM, GET YOUR TICKETS, AND MAY THE BEST QUILT WIN! PROCEEDS GO TOWARD AN ENDOWMENT FOR OUR YOUTH.

FOR MORE EVENTS AND INFORMATION CHECK OUT OUR FACBOOK PAGE HERE: ***IACC FACEBOOK PAGE***

PLEASE KEEP OUR CONFIRMATION STUDENTS IN YOUR PRAYERS AS THEY PREPARE TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION ON **NOVEMBER 22ND**. MAY THE HOLY SPIRIT STRENGTHEN THEIR FAITH, GUIDE THEIR HEARTS, AND HELP THEM GROW CLOSER TO CHRIST AS THEY CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEY OF FAITH.

LIVING STEWARDSHIP IN OUR COMMUNITY

Service is a part of good stewardship. People tend to sell themselves short of their ability to be of service. Even the smallest action has meaning. It can be small acts of service throughout your day or week. St Therese of Lisieux said “Jesus does not look at the greatness of our actions or at their difficulty as at the love with which we do them.” Our own St. Elizabeth Ann Seton said, "Our least action when done for God is precious to him.” Small actions with good intentions can leave a big mark.

It can be as easy as being aware of what's going on around you. Opening/holding a door for someone, or picking up something that was dropped. I once saw someone at Church take a young child for a parent who had another child in need of attention. A small act but meaningful for the parent.

Helping at Church can be as simple as putting a book away that was left in a pew or putting other items back in their place. If you’re looking for one-time events you can help with using your God given talents, check out the weekly bulletin!

Mother Theresa said “Kind words can be easy to speak but their echoes are truly endless.”

Saying a kind word when someone is short with you can change their day. No act is too small if done with love.

Stewardship in the Community

Somewhere you can help in the community is Lex Specialty Clinic (and pregnancy resource center). Lex is a non-profit free community clinic offering confidential support, limited medical resources and material resources for pregnancy and sexual health.
Check the September 20th Church Bulletin for information on the fund raising Vision Dinner on October 23rd.

For more information and volunteer opportunities contact:
Lex Specialty Clinic
Website: lexspecialtyclinic.com
Phone 763-325-8709
Text 763-888-8804

Please check the Bulletin for upcoming service opportunities.

October 24th is Octoberfest at CTK campus

STEWARDSHIP FINANCES

Financial Overview

As we continue reflecting on stewardship and the ways we care for the gifts entrusted to us, I want to share an update on the financial health of our parish. With the close of the 2025-2026 fiscal year, our review shows that we are operating with a positive balance. This is encouraging, though it is important to remember that this includes Extraordinary and other nonrecurring income along with our Ordinary parish income.

Key Concerns and Trends

There are important concerns to keep in mind as we review our financial position. When looking solely at Ordinary income, our parishes fall short by **$82,528** for the year. This challenge is not unique to us—many parishes face similar gaps when relying only on regular operating income.

As good stewards our goal would be to pay our bills from our Sunday collections. Doing so ensures that Extraordinary and other nonrecurring income remains available for unexpected needs, major repairs, and new ministries the parish may wish to begin.

CHRIST THE KING

TOTAL INCOME:	377,481
ORDINARY:	224,656
EXTRAORDINARY:	19,419
OTHER:	133,407
TOTAL EXPENSES:	283,925
NET CHANGE:	93,556

ST ELIZABETH ANN SETON

TOTAL INCOME:	340,080
ORDINARY:	241,529
EXTRAORDINARY:	60,007
OTHER:	38,544
TOTAL EXPENSES:	264,788
NET CHANGE:	75,292

Financial Stability Strategy

As we strive to live out our commitment to stewardship, we are reminded that God calls us to share the gifts we have received by giving back to God and to one another. Meeting our financial obligations depends on covering expenses with Ordinary income, which comes primarily from the weekly offertory collection. Continued generosity and participation from all parishioners is essential to maintaining the financial health of our communities and supporting the ongoing mission and ministries of our parishes.

Michael J. Sullivan
Our Lady Queen of Peace
Business Administrator

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