



Profiles in Stewardship: Ladies of the OLM Boutique

~by Serena

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Living our Parish Mission – Performing the Works of Mercy

“For I was a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me...” – Matthew 25:36

With its entrance tucked away between the Rectory and the garage, the OLM Boutique could go unnoticed, but that is clearly not the case. Stroll through and you will find that it is filled with treasures – items donated by parishioners because they aren’t being used, they’ve been replaced or just to make room at home! No matter the reason, parishioners share their bounty with the community by donating dishes, glasses, decorative items, clothing, religious articles, books and toys.

On any Monday through Saturday, you will find the ladies of the OLM Boutique bustling about in their basement store, folding, hanging, sorting, straightening, or helping someone to find a particular item. The people of the parish are very generous, giving items that are like new, including formal wear, suits – even the occasional leather jacket.

The one day when all who work in the OLM Boutique are together is for their annual luncheon, so I stopped by the Milleridge Inn to hear more about their experiences at the Boutique and what it means to them. This is a group of gentle women who listen eagerly to each other’s stories, laugh easily and obviously enjoy their time together.

Each day at the Boutique is a community event. People come in to bring donations, chat and share the news of the day. Others come in need, perhaps looking for a suit for an interview, or clothing or toys for children. One of the women said, “We have regular visitors, people who come in every week. You get to know them and what they might need. For example, there is a man who checks our boutique to see what he can provide for families in his parish.”

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The OLM Boutique Ministry, Giving their Time to Serve the needs of others, and Living our Parish Mission

“Everything good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow... Be doers of the word and not just hearers... such a one shall be blessed in what he does.” - James 1:17,22-25

Stewardship Prayer

Creator God,
Life is your gift to me.
Through Baptism,
you invite me to share the gift of my life
in service to others.
Be with me as I choose each day
to show your Presence in our world.
Give me the courage and generosity
to respond to your love, to your call.
I pray especially for those
who serve you in ministry
throughout the parishes of Long Island.
May we bring the Good News
to those in need.
Keep us close to you.
Open the minds and hearts
of many others
-- men, women, and young people --
that they may accept your challenge
to build the Kingdom in our parishes.
We ask this prayer through Christ
our Lord.
Amen.



***God, grant me a grateful heart.
Help me to pray as Mary prayed:
My soul proclaims the greatness
of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in
God my Savior for He has looked
with favor on his lowly servant.
~Reach out in prayer to God.~***



Cultivating an “Attitude of Gratitude” from *Our Sunday Visitor*, July 2011

How do you react when things don't go as you expect? Are you judgmental and impatient? Unsettled and unhappy? Most of us are! Cultivating an “attitude of gratitude” – a response that looks for and is grateful for the hidden “gifts” in the unexpected situation – is one way to be a good steward of the difficult moments life sometimes presents to us.

When a friend leaves our workplace to take a new job, we can be disgruntled at the loss of her companionship on the job and unhappy about the potential increased workload – or we can rejoice with her at the new opportunity and be grateful for the friendship we've enjoyed over the years. When rain cancels the family picnic plans, we can complain about the weather – or break out the playing cards or the Monopoly game and share a little indoor “quality time.” When the little league game goes into extra innings or the soccer team wins and moves on to yet another game tonight, we can fret about it interfering with the next thing on the schedule – or we can buy another bag of popcorn, and relax, knowing that our children's happy memories are probably being made out on the field.

When we're traveling to new places and the accommodations are not what we were anticipating, an attitude of gratitude can help us rejoice that at least the linens are clean and the plumbing is adequate – and then perhaps lead us to explore why things are done differently here. If a menu is filled with unfamiliar food, instead of searching for something “recognizable,” do you consider it an invitation to try something new? Are rude or preoccupied commuters on the subway or the train a source of irritation or an opportunity to “people watch” and wonder about their lives and circumstances? Is a flight cancellation a cause for anger – or, after alternate arrangements have been made, an opportunity to enjoy a new book?

Good stewards look for the best in every situation and rejoice in it. They know that all is gift – even the unexpected bumps in the road – and they seek to receive gratefully and use responsibly each precious moment sent by the Lord. Cultivating a consistent and intentional attitude of gratitude makes them more flexible in unfamiliar situations and more comfortable with change. Try it! This summer, when life takes an unanticipated turn, see if you can find something good about the new situation instead of complaining that it isn't what you'd planned. It isn't always easy, but it's always good stewardship!

Together We Serve as Stewards of the OLM Summer Fair

Are you ready for the biggest event of the summer at Our Lady of Mercy – the Summer Fair?

What will You Do at the Fair?



Being part of the OLM Summer Fair is different from any other activity or organization in the Parish. There is an energy and camaraderie that makes it festive, no matter what the task. According to Wikipedia, there are more smiles per square foot on the grounds of the Summer Fair than anywhere else on Long Island during those five days. Who wouldn't want to be part of that!

It is so all-encompassing, bringing together people with different interests, at different points in their lives, from different ministries to use their time, talents and treasure for the common goal – to benefit our Parish.

With the variety of venues, there are myriad talents needed to make the Summer Fair successful. You can find your niche whether it is cooking, music, art, decorating, organizing or selling – your gifts are needed.

The greatest gift you can give is of your time. Whether you spend a little time each day, one whole day, or all five days at the Summer Fair, it is you being there that makes it successful.

After three years of preparing and running the Fair, some things take less effort, and many of the pieces fall into place more easily. There is a rhythm and people know what needs to be done. There are always changes though, and new ideas are needed. This year, under the leadership of Donna Biernacki, and with the help of our teens, the Summer Fair will recycle deposit cans and bottles. There will be special Recycles Only containers throughout the fair. The proceeds will benefit our World Youth Day pilgrims.



Save the dates: July 27—31st

"God loves a cheerful giver. Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you." - 2 Corinthians 9:7

Food: The famous Pasta-eria provides its sumptuous snacks and meals – burgers, sausage, chicken, shrimp, pasta – try something different each night!

Beverages: There will be plenty of cold drinks on a hot summer day or evening – something for everyone – sodas, iced teas, Italian ices... or perhaps a beer or glass of wine – stop by one of the tents near the food for a treat.

Dessert: Zeppolis, fresh baked cakes, and of course, coffee!

Music Events:

Wed: OLM's Beyond Belief—Contemporary Christian

Thurs: The Paul Effman Jazz Ensemble

Fri: Classic Rock with Short Notice

Sat: Revisit the 50's and 60's with The Dukes

Sun: Classical Singer, Barbara Divis

Raffles: Visit the raffle table for a chance to win a TV, an iPad, a Disney vacation or \$5000!

Rides: Ferris Wheel, Mega-slide, Bumper Cars – things that spin, whirl, swing and will give you views of the neighborhood you've never seen before.

Casino: Spend some quiet time playing Black Jack, Let it Ride, or the Money Wheels, with all proceeds to benefit the education programs of OLM.

Games: Try your hand at traditional carnival games of chance, maybe win a prize or even bring home a goldfish.

Other Things to Do: Have your face painted, get some sweet treats, popcorn, or take a break and spend some quiet, reflecting time – the church will be open for those who would like to stop in and thank God for all our blessings.

Our Lady of Mercy eNewsletter— On Stewardship Spirituality



OUR LADY OF MERCY

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Look for us again next month as we bring you updates on the events and people in our parish community.

Please direct all inquiries via email to therectory@olmrc.com.

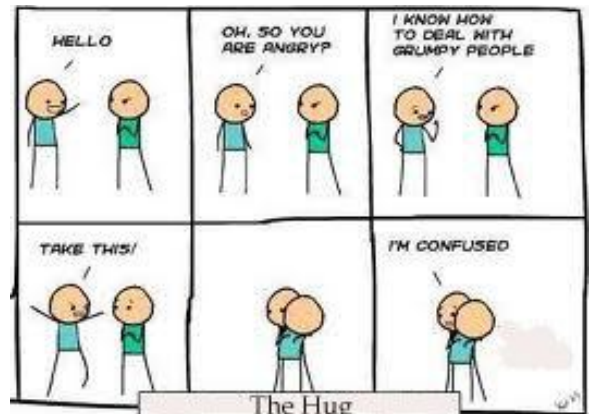
Are you receiving this from a friend, or know someone else who would like to—send us your email to sign up today and find out what else you may be missing!

We Need Your Talent!

We are in need of someone who enjoys writing and likes to talk to people. If you can spare a few hours a month to talk with your fellow parishioners, you can help to write the Profiles in Stewardship column to tell how people in our parish are living Stewardship Spirituality. Please share your gifts! Contact us at therectory@olmrc.com.

This eNewsletter focuses on Stewardship Spirituality in our lives and in our parish. Who do you know that is living a stewardship life? If you're not sure you want to write the story, but would like to share it, please email us about that, too!..

On a Light Note:



Stewardship of Time

Evening Prayer

Pause for one minute each night at 9PM and pray the Hail Mary. Join those who pray for the safety of the United States, our troops, our citizens and for a return to a Godly nation.



Reaching Out to God in our Need

Living as Stewards Through the Works of Mercy—cont'd page 1

When I asked why they participate in this ministry – what makes it special for them, the resounding answer made me feel as though I had asked a silly question: We are helping people – we make a difference. The ladies of the OLM Boutique are truly living our Parish Mission – they are true Stewards, living the Acts of Mercy.

“We are able to help so many people, and it is so easy to do – they come to us!”

“We have made great friendships. I love the time I spend at the Boutique.”

“Sometimes we get together afterwards; we go to lunch. These ladies are my friends.”

“We’ve come to know the people in the community through our work here. It feels good to know that we are able to make a difference.”

To join this ministry, please contact Doris Repoli. You can leave a message at the Rectory, or email therectory@olmrc.com with Boutique in the subject.

Uniform Alert!

Ever notice that around April your child has a sudden growth spurt. Or the school pants have developed a hole that goes through both layers of the double knee. And you realize that there is just NO way these clothes will make it through June. Don't despair! There is no better place to stop and “spin the rack” than the OLM Boutique if you are looking for some extra uniform pieces to tide them over through year-end – when they grow again.