



Stewardship Spirituality

A Way of Life

Inside this issue:

<i>Profiles in Stewardship: Serving Those in Need</i>	1
<i>On Stewardship Spirituality: The Secret to Success</i>	2
<i>Stewardship Prayer</i>	2
<i>A Parish Mission: Encountering Jesus Christ</i>	3
<i>Word on Fire</i>	4
<i>Living Stewardship Creating Lenten Traditions</i>	5
<i>Who Do You Know</i>	6
<i>On a Light Note</i>	6
<i>Stewardship of Time</i>	6

**Are you
talking the talk or
walking the walk?**

What better time than Lent, than to consider where He is leading you to walk. Consider joining the Knights, find out more about the Right to Life efforts or help our Pantry.

See where God is leading you in your life



Profiles in Stewardship: Serving Those in Need

By Lucia Fangmann

One Saturday in October, sporting a leather jacket, jeans and a Led Zeppelin tee shirt, Rich Zavada explained why the OLM Knights sponsor a Rocktober event. "It's about keeping the kids involved in their parish. Making this the place they want to come to have fun and spend time with friends. And God knows I love this music! I'd do it just for that," Rich called out, as the teen band served up 70's rock and roll anthems from the Mercy auditorium stage for their friends and family – and the Knights served up the snacks.

Pillars of Hospitality: A vital source of Rich's spirituality is his dedicated participation in the OLM Knights of Columbus. A past Grand Knight, Rich is ever-active in organizing and implementing projects that support our parish both fiscally and spiritually. The Knights host altar server and communion breakfasts, and St. Patrick's Day and Italian night dinners, among other social events

Rich's pride in the Knights is rooted in its history: its focus on eliminating prejudice, helping the poor and that one attains "degrees" through study, acts of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. One of Rich's fondest memories is of his close friendship with late, Dr. Vincent Genna, forged when they joined the OLM Knights together and based on mutual dedication and service.

Rich Zavada's call to conscience began in youth: an Eagle Scout, he received the Ad Altare Dei award (to the altar of God), and helped to train younger scouts. Rich credits his family life, their Catholic upbringing and morality for setting his path in life. As Rich asserted, he strives to, "talk the talk, *and* walk the walk."

As the foundation of his call to faith and service deepened, Rich believes he came to a deeper understanding of the sanctity of all Life. In his own words, "Life is valuable, life is everything...No one has the right to decide life or death, but God." The "torch" for the Right to Life committee was passed to Rich by longtime, exemplary supporter, Mary Murray. He organizes the trips to the March for Life, various Prayer Rallies among other events. His sincere hope is for the growth and rejuvenation of the dedicated base of Right to Life support within OLM. While we are all called, reality demands that our young people understand and respond to this call. The sanctity of life issue is imbued in what Rich terms the "continuing low regard for human life in a society where...animal rights figure more predominantly, than human right to life."

Rich truly lives a life of Stewardship Spirituality. He works for Keyspan where he is a member of the volunteer service group, the Lamplighters, who donate their lunch hours and after hours to help with food rescue in conjunction with Island Harvest. His family helps him in his efforts, and you can find his children Lorraine and Peter, or his wife Jadwiga assisting him in one of his many Works of Mercy.

"Life is valuable, life is everything... No one has the right to decide life or death, but God."

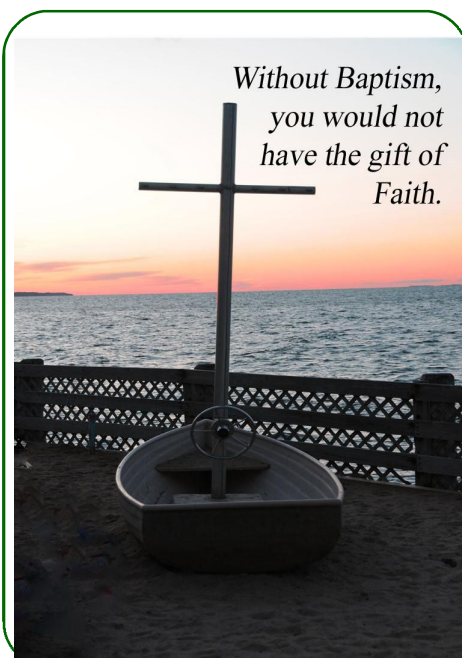


Rich is in the OLM Knights of Columbus, leads the Right to Life Committee and is a member of the Lamplighter food rescue group.

“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”
— 1 Peter 4:10

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.



The Secret to Success

Msgr. Thomas McGread on Stewardship Spirituality

Contrary to popular belief, Stewardship Spirituality is not about raising money. It’s not even about building up our parish ministries and increasing participation. Stewardship Spirituality is all about Christ. That is the most important thing to remember.

Sure, as we move toward stewardship as a way of life, our parish may see our offertories rise and our ministries may increase their numbers, but that should not be our focus. That’s because stewardship begins with a conversion of heart. The true steward makes a commitment to the Lord – not merely to the parish. He gives his life to God because he wants to follow Him, and everything else – his time, his talent, and his treasure – follows suit.

That being said, however, it is important to recognize that some may come to this conversion of heart through their participation in parish ministries. For example someone who loves to knit may decide to join a Prayer Shawl ministry simply because it gives her an opportunity to do what she loves. Meanwhile, in doing so, she comes to interact with others who have given their lives to the Lord as His disciples. Their examples will inevitably have an impact on her. She is bound to see the joy in selfless giving, to recognize Christ working through them, and in that, she will grow closer to Christ.

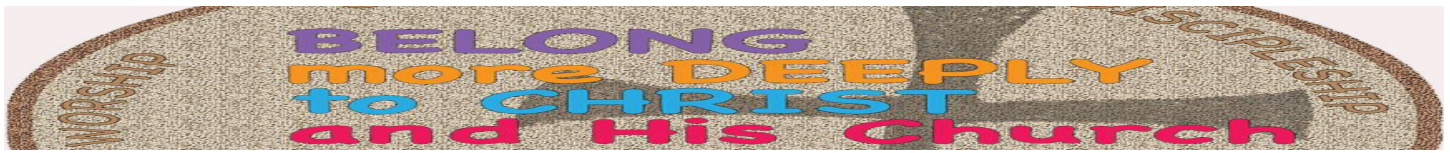
Christ is what it’s all about – in our prayer times, in our ministries, and even in our offertories. And we must all—priests and laity— make that clear by the way we live our own lives and by the way we encourage others to live as well.

People often ask how I made St. Francis in Wichita a stewardship parish—what was my secret, and I have to admit, I had no secret. It was all God, and God made the difference – no question.

My parents taught me, at a very early age, that our lives belong to God, That we are merely stewards of our lives and of the many gifts we have, and, thus, we must live our lives for Him. I watched as

**Wont you join us for
the Our Lady of Mercy
Parish Mission?
It's time to
Take a Step,
Belong More Deeply.
See where God is leading
you in your life**

Continued on page 6



Our Parish Lenten Mission

Encountering Jesus Christ A Parish Retreat

Led by Father Michael P. Sullivan OSA.

Our Lady of Mercy Roman Catholic Church
500 S Oyster Bay Rd.
Hicksville, NY 11801
516-931-4351

Sunday, March 18, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

Power of God in Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Spirit

Monday, March, 19, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

Are You Looking for Reconciliation, Forgiveness and Healing?

Tuesday, March, 20, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

Fidelity and Commitment

Wednesday, March, 21, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

Called to One Bread, One Body

(Followed by Hospitality)



Father Michael P. Sullivan, O.S.A., was born in New York City in March, 1940. He received a bachelor's degree from Villanova University and his master's in theology from Augustinian College. Father Sullivan did graduate work at the Catholic University of America and also received a master's degree in counseling from St. John's University. Ordained in 1967, he spent eight years in parish ministry. Father Sullivan served as pastor in the Albany Diocese and as pastor of Saint Nicholas of Tolentine, the parish of his youth in N.Y.C. He has been a member of the executive board of Worldwide Marriage Encounter; and in this capacity he has traveled extensively throughout the United States, Canada, and Australia. In 1980 he was appointed to full-time retreat work and parish renewal preaching.



Message from Peggy Clores, OLM Adult Formation Team:

I want to personally thank Jerry Rorke, the Coordinator of St Patrick's RCIA Team in Huntington Village for taking this on! All over the country, showings of Father Barron's **The Catholicism Project**, have gained great momentum and have had outstanding evangelization impact! If you have not seen it, it is a must. This extraordinarily powerful and beautiful labor will make you very proud to be a Catholic!!

DO SOMETHING SPECIAL THIS
LENT!!!!!!

Join us for one or all ten weeks
starting Thursday evening March
1st at 7:30pm

Due to limited space, please email
Jerry or me to reserve your place.

Watch the Trailer! Enjoy!!

<http://www.wordonfire.org/WOF-TV/Catholicism-Project-new/The-Catholicism-Project---NEW-TRAILER.aspx>

Message from Jerry Rorke, St. Patrick's RCIA Team:

The St. Patrick's RCIA team is sponsoring this very special event beginning Thursday evening March 1st at 7:30pm and running for 10 weeks. We will be presenting "Catholicism" - a landmark film series - in the Rectory basement. We will meet each Thursday from 3/1 - 5/24 (except 4/5, 4/12 and 5/17)

Folks, this is the best DVD production I have ever seen on the teachings traditions and culture of Catholicism...hosted by Fr. Robert Barron (a fantastic teacher) - it was many years in the making and is shot in HD from locations all over the world.

Come to one or all 10 episodes
(depending on your schedule). All
are welcome! Spread the Word!

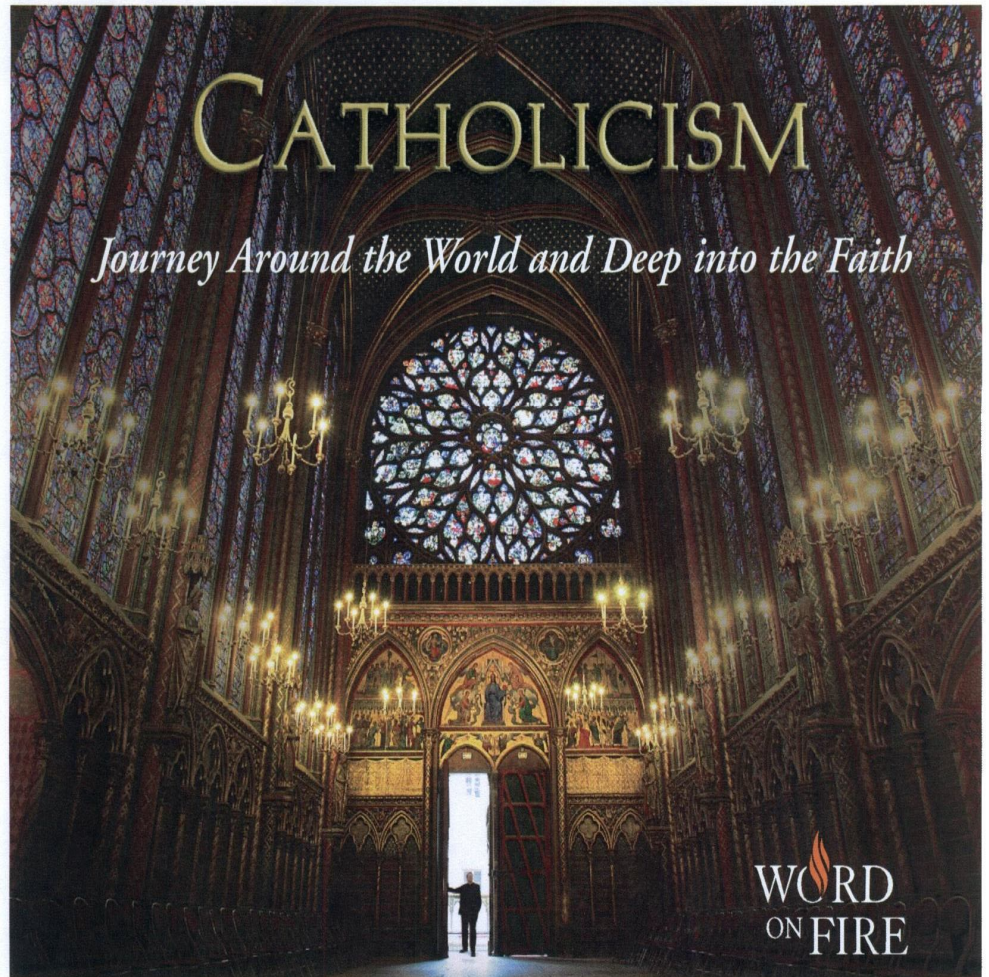
Refreshments will be served!

Contact info:

jerryrorke@aol.com
516-238-5833

Peggy Clores
imcon630@aol.com

Formation: Growing in Faith



*Experience the "Most Vivid Catechism Ever Created"**

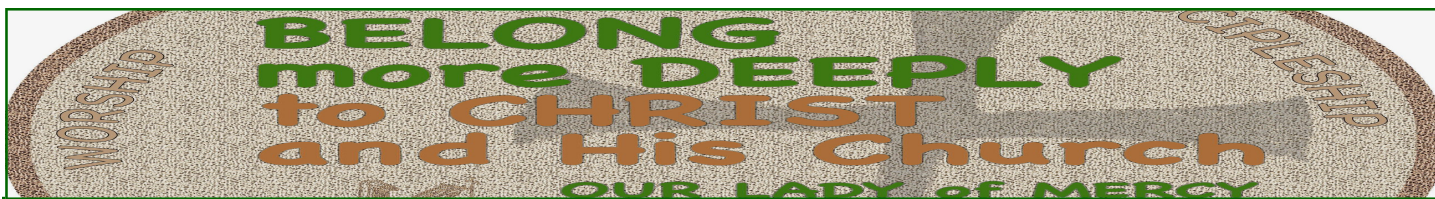
Creator and host **Fr. Robert Barron** illuminates *what* Catholics believe and *why*, while immersing you in the art, architecture, literature, music, and all the riches of the Catholic tradition.

* Brad Miner, *The Catholic Thing* blog

For more information on this program, contact your parish representative below:

JOIN US for A Landmark Film Series on Catholicism
Beginning Thursday March 1 7:30pm for 10 weeks
St. Patrick's Church, Huntington
(Rectory Basement)
All are Welcome!

WORD
ON FIRE



Living Stewardship Spirituality: Creating Lenten Traditions

Putting Ideas into Action

You don't have to have a degree in religion to come up with your own Lenten traditions. Lent can be a time to step away from the normal routine to create new and sacred traditions that allow us to take the next step as we work to incorporate more prayer, service and meaning in our communal walk through the spiritual desert.

Your sacrifices and service should be a natural outgrowth of your family's interests, desires and talents. Find something that everyone might try and start slowly. Some families go without any "screen" time for all 40 days. Others add the Rosary or other prayers to their nightly routines. Whichever path a family chooses, the actions often blossom into treasured annual traditions and sometimes even into new routines that spill over into Ordinary Time and ordinary lives. Here are some more ideas:

Make a crown of thorns out of braided bread and toothpicks with a purple candle in the center. Each time a family member is "caught being Jesus" to someone else, a "thorn" is removed from the crown. The point is to remove all the thorns by Easter.

Author Mike Aquilina takes his children (aged 7 and up) to the **Chrism Mass** each year. "It's great for them to see all the priests together in force, and hear the priesthood spoken of in the stunning terms of the day's liturgy," he said. "Afterward we go out to celebrate the great feast day when Our Lord established such awesome sacraments."

Bring your children to Stations of the Cross. Outdoor Stations are especially good for young families because you are less likely to disturb others and the images are usually large and eye-catching. At OLM, the Stations of the Cross will be every Friday in the church at 9:30am and 7:30pm.

Encourage your children to **give away their time to the needy during Lent.** You can visit those in nursing homes, or others who are homebound. (Hint: Contact Parish Outreach for information.)

It is important to teach our children to give to others, and let them know that Our Lord puts people all around us that we should serve in one way or another. You may not be changing the world, but hopefully Lent is changing you.

Excerpted from an article by Mary DeTurris Poust on Our Sunday Visitor at www.osv.com

What are you doing for Lent?

Ask Catholics what they're doing for Lent and they'll probably tell you that they are giving up a favorite food, a favorite pastime or anything else they really love, but that isn't really essential in their lives.

Giving up something for Lent fosters self-discipline and tempers our desires. It is a form of fasting. It is a form of penance. It promotes spiritual growth. If you're giving up something for Lent, that's great. But think also about the possibility of doing something positive to bolster your spiritual life and make the world a better place. Look for ways that you can increase your knowledge of your faith, strengthen your spiritual life or perform special acts of mercy and kindness at home, at work, in your parish or in your community.



Our Lady of Mercy eNewsletter— On Stewardship Spirituality



OUR LADY OF MERCY

500 South Oyster Bay Road,
Hicksville, New York 11801

516-931-4351

Visit us on the web at
www.OurLadyofMercy.org

Sign up for our
Email Newsletter

OLM eNewsletter Staff:

Father Rich Kammerer, Managing Editor

Serena Perrotta, Editor & Contributing Writer

Contributing Writers—Thank You for your talents:

Mary Battaglia, Lucia Fangmann, and Mary Olive

Did you pick this up at church? Know someone else who would like it?

Send us an email to sign up— find out what else you may be missing!

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

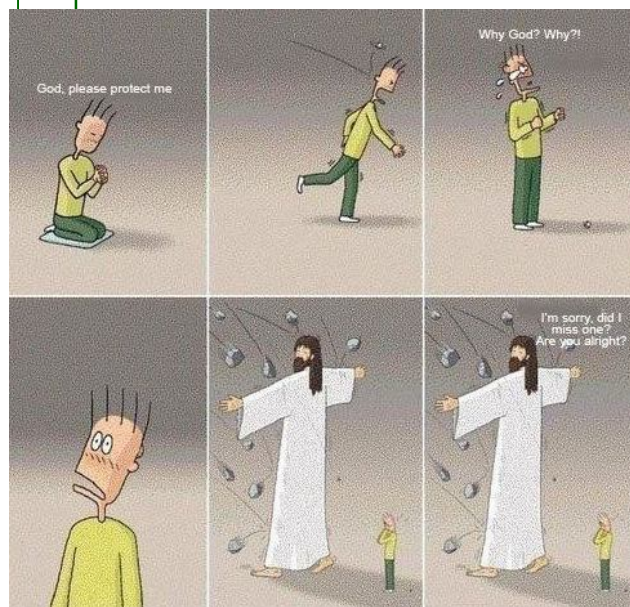
Who Do You Know?

Are you someone who likes to talk to people? Someone who likes to share a story? If you can spare an hour or two a month, you can help to write the Profiles in Stewardship. Not sure you want to write the story, but would like to tell it, we can talk about that, too!

Please share your gifts! Help to spread the good news of how the people of OLM are living Stewardship Spirituality. Who do you know that is living a stewardship life?

Email us at therectory@olmrcc.com.

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



The Secret to Success

(continued from page 2)

they did just that. They made family prayer time a daily practice in our home. They loved and cared for my siblings and me selflessly. They were highly involved in the life of our parish community – giving both their talents and their finances. And they did it all with a deep joy, a sincere gratitude, feeling as though it was a blessing that they were able to live for the Lord. We talked about what it meant to be a Catholic – to be a follower of Christ, but what spoke louder than their words, to me, were their examples. I saw how much they loved the Lord. I saw how much they gave back to Him. And I saw the joy that they received as they gave of themselves so selflessly. I learned, very early on, what it means to be a disciple of Christ.

So, when I became pastor – my main concern was bringing the people to Christ. With that intent, one of the first things I did at every parish where I served as pastor was hold a parish mission. Before the parishioners thought about getting involved in ministries, before I addressed the budget, I wanted them to understand that life as a Christian is all about God, and we, as Christians, must put God first. I asked a guest speaker to address the parishioners, inviting them to grow closer to God, and then I worked throughout my pastorate to keep the focus on Christ.

There you have it. The secret to stewardship success is Jesus Christ. Love Him. Serve Him. And invite others to do the same. That will make all the difference!