



Profiles in Stewardship: Living Your Mission

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Sr. Jeannine gave her 8th graders an assignment for religion class. She asked each of them to consider a passage from Luke's gospel (4:16-21) where Jesus speaks of his mission and goal. As she put it, "it can be viewed as His mission statement. It tells us who He is and what He will do. He speaks of His commitment to His goal: *Today this scripture passage has been fulfilled in your hearing.*"

Sister's challenge to her students was "to reflect on how you are able to be Christ in your class, in your school, in your community and especially in your home." Then, write your own mission statement, beginning as Jesus began: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to..."

Michael Deery shares his story of how God may have already shown him a path for the future... one that he feels prepared for because of his experiences.

The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to take care of the old.

I loved to take care of my grandmother. During the last few years of her life, she was widowed, frail, and lonely. She required assistance with household chores, shopping, and general care. Every week I would visit with her and do whatever she needed me to do.

I would help with groceries, put out garbage, move furniture, sort mail, clean the yard and shovel snow. Just spending three hours a week with her on a Saturday made her feel better. Since her death, I have good memories of the time I spent with her.

I wasn't frightened by my Grandma's illnesses or nearness to death. I wasn't too impatient to listen to her tell the same stories over and over again. I wasn't in too much of a hurry to spend some time just being with her. I especially enjoyed sharing meals with her because she really liked it. She loved German food and she liked beer sometimes.

When she was well enough, we would take her out to dinner. Other times my mom would cook roast pork or sauerbraten and bring everything to Grandma's house.

Perhaps the experience with my Grandma and the way I handled it will have something to do with God's plan for me. Caring for the elderly is Christlike. Christ cared for the sick and the vulnerable. I can be Christlike by taking care of the elderly who have lost physical power and strength. I can do chores and run errands for family and neighbors who need assistance. Most of all, I can take the time to spend time with them.

Take Sr. Jeannine's challenge and consider your own mission. Reflect on how you can be like Christ in your everyday life.

You have been born, baptized, and given special insights for a purpose. Maybe your heart breaks every time you see a child who has been abused, or maybe you have a deep love for the environment and God's creation. Perhaps you have a desire to enter public service. Maybe, after making all those peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, you'd like to volunteer in a soup kitchen and wonder how so many can be hungry in a land that has so much. Your concerns, your heart's desires, could be telling you something about God's call for your life. Reflect and then write your own mission statement beginning as Jesus began: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to..."



A Decade a Day

Stewardship Spirituality Rosary Petitions:

That Stewardship Spirituality takes root at OLM.

For all who are praying this intention, and

In thanksgiving for all God's graces and blessings on us, our families and our friends.

*We are the
Hands of Christ*



"... I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control." 2 Timothy 1

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.



In this, the beginning of Paul's letter to Timothy, Paul reminds Timothy to 'stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands,' recognizing that the gifts Timothy had, though received through the Holy Spirit, were still Timothy's gifts. They were within his control and he had the ability either to 'stir them into flame' and use them boldly, or let them flicker quietly and unnoticeably. Paul hopes that his words will push Timothy to action in order that he might recognize the power of his gifts and utilize them for the glory our Lord God. Paul's letter speaks to each of us as well. We all have gifts conferred by God, but they are ours to control. We determine whether we will stir them into flame, or simply let them flicker. We need to consider our gifts and talents, and how we can use them to best serve God and each other. Sometimes we need to be reminded that we have great gifts and talents and that the Spirit rests with each of us. We should not be afraid, as it is up to us to take control, stir it into flame, so that we can make the best use of that which God has given us. 'For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather of power and love and self-control.'

This year, make the commitment to Help out using your gifts and talents, Hang out to make new friends in your parish, and Reach out in prayer to God in your need.

OLM LifeTeen Gives the Gift of Time

Hanging Out to Make New Friends

by Nolan Reynolds

In December, six OLM teens travelled to Manhattan for a day of service with the Sisters of Life. The Sisters of Life are a contemplative/active religious community who work for the protection and enhancement of the sacredness of every human life. They specifically care for and assist women in crisis pregnancies. Every year, the Sisters host a Christmas party for the women they serve and their families. This year, members of OLM LifeTeen spent the day at the party, organizing games, playing with the children, helping to sort and distribute donated presents for the families and maintaining a safe environment for the guests.



Anthony Pelliccia (sophomore, Holy Trinity) was humbled to meet and spend time with “a lot of fun kids” who do not have as much as he does. He said, “I realized that I just overlook many things in my life— many of the things that these kids and people don’t have normally.” Aidan Campolettano (sophomore, Holy Trinity) also walked away from the experience with a sense of gratitude, noting that

it “helped me grasp the significance of giving especially around this time of year.” Amy Perfetti (junior, Hicksville) was moved by the reaction of the children remarking how they “found joy in the most simple things, like coloring books and having someone to play with.” She admitted, “I never fully appreciated how lucky I was to grow up the way that I did.”

Some of the teens commented on how much they enjoyed working with the Sisters. Francesca Salluzzi (freshman, St. Dominic) said, “the Sisters are inspiring and they are so positive.” Through helping at the party, she came to understand “how important it is to help others.” Mary Hearon (freshman, Kellenberg) shared that her “eyes were opened to how many lives were saved by the Sisters of Life because without them those kids I played with wouldn’t have been there.” AJ Beckner (sophomore, Holy Trinity) agreed, “It was awe inspiring to think of how each of the little children there almost weren’t, and what kind of a difference little things make for them.”

On Helping Out:

“...how important it is to help others... without [the Sisters], those kids I played with wouldn’t have been there.”



The Sisters of Life is a contemplative/active religious community of women founded in 1991 by John Cardinal O’Connor for the protection and enhancement of the sacredness of every human life. Conforming their lives to Christ, the Sisters take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and a fourth vow to protect and enhance the sacredness of human life.

to lay down our lives that others might live
A CHARISM OF LIFE



Our Lady of Mercy eNewsletter

500 South Oyster Bay Road, Hicksville, New York 11801
516-931-4351

Know someone who isn't receiving this eNewsletter?
Have them send us an email at: therectory@olmcc.com



OUR LADY OF MERCY

On a Light Note:



OLM eNewsletter Staff:

Father Rich Kammerer, Managing Editor

Serena Perrotta, Editor

Andrew Rula, Reporter at Large

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@olmcc.com.

***We're on the web! Visit us at:
www.OurLadyofMercy.org***

The Story of the Star Thrower

From www.bellaonline.com—Adapted from **The Star Thrower**—by **Loren Eiseley**

Once upon a time, there was a wise man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. One day, as he was walking along the shore, he looked down the beach and saw a figure moving like a dancer. He smiled to himself at the thought of someone who would dance to the day, and so, he walked faster to catch up. As he got closer, he noticed that the figure was that of a young man, and that he was not dancing at all. The young man was reaching down to the shore, picking up small objects, and throwing them into the ocean.

He came closer still and called out "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?"

The young man paused, looked up, and replied "Throwing starfish into the ocean."

"I must ask, then, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?" asked the somewhat startled wise man.

To this, the young man replied, "The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them in, they'll die."

Upon hearing this, the wise man commented, "But, young man, do you not realize that there are miles and miles of beach and there are starfish all along every mile? You can't possibly make a difference!"

At this, the young man bent down, picked up yet another starfish, and threw it into the ocean. As it met the water, he said, "I made a difference to that one!"

"The Star Thrower" is a classic story of the power within each one of us to make a difference in the lives of others. And though it has appeared in many forms, it is none the less a powerful reminder that we should be here for each other, and to seek to help, even in small ways, whenever we can.

In such turbulent times as these, when we may feel alone and small and unable to make any lasting changes we may find ourselves asking "What can I do that will make a difference?" or "What can one small person like me do?"

In reality we don't have to be rich, talented or even particularly intelligent to make a difference in the life of another. We just need to remember that we ARE here for a purpose, and that making small changes in the world eventually add up to something bigger in the life of another.

When we become throwers of the stars, we too, have the power to change the world