



STEWARDSHIP BULLETIN REFLECTIONS
SCRIPTURE REFLECTION & ECO-THOUGHT
YEAR B - ORDINARY TIME 2 – 7, 2009

Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

Scripture Reflection

Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. (1 Samuel 9)

Sometimes our heads spin with a clamour of different voices. To whom are you listening? God is always speaking to us, calling us to follow Him. It is for us to patiently and faithfully discern His voice among the others.

Eco-Thought

Wantonly to destroy the relational and holistic qualities of our environment is to sin against the very structure of the world which God has created.

–Richard A. Baer

We are constantly bombarded with noise and advertising from every direction. Print, television, magazine, radio, even our clothes, cars, skateboards, and coffee cups are advertising to us and to others. Finding quiet times and quiet places to listen to God's message is hard to do. Spending one hour a week at mass is a good start but there are many more hours in the week. Consider the material you feed your mind, body, and spirit. Be choosy about the movies you watch, the magazines and books you read, and the TV that fills your brain. When you have finished with it, be sure to recycle it appropriately, i.e. when you find something that feeds your spirit, share it with others. Spread the word and the Word!

Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

Scripture Reflection

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. (Psalm 24:4)

Despite our best intentions, we are so often led astray by competing motives and by the simple reality of sin in our lives. The process of stewardship calls individuals and communities to continual conversion and to strive to make God's kingdom a reality on earth.

Eco-Thought

The basis of an environmental ethic: The world belongs to God. God likes the world he created.

--Richard A. Baer

Chances are, God's Kingdom isn't cluttered so there is no reason ours should be either. The best way to make our kingdom more like God's is to make more room for the good stuff by getting rid of the stuff we no longer need. There are many ways to do this spring cleaning; a meaningful way to clear our kingdom is to pass our excess on to someone who needs it. There are many resources on the internet to connect those who have to those who have not. Giving any item a second or third useful life is an excellent way to make room in your life, and help someone else as well. Plus, it's easy on the environment.

Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Scripture Reflection

I want you to be free from anxieties. (1 Corinthians 7.32)

The Lord has assigned a life unique to each of us. Before our birth, He gave us everything we need to fulfil that assignment. Do not worry; you have everything you need.

Eco-Thought

The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quiet, alone with the heavens, nature and God. Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy, amidst the simple beauty of nature.

-- Anne Frank

A good way to find out what you really need is to take a long trip. Two weeks or more should do it, and you will find that you will only bring along the stuff you need to survive. Today's gospel tells us we already have everything we need, and it's always good to maintain a focus on the important things and people in our lives. Whenever you travel don't forget to continue to care for the world around you. Treat your vacation surroundings just as you would treat your home, yard and city. And when you run into any adversity just remember that you are already equipped to handle it.

Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Scripture Reflection

"Everyone is searching for you." (Mark 1:37b)

Everyone is searching for Jesus; all people are looking for love, healing, forgiveness, direction, salvation. Do they find Jesus in you?

Eco-Thought

My profession is always to be alert, to find God in nature, to know God's lurking places, to attend to all the oratorios and the operas in nature.

--Henry David Thoreau

On a recent three day business trip, I found myself out of toothpaste. The hotel where I was staying was happy to supply me with three single-use toothpaste packages. Very convenient! When I was checking out three days later, it hit me: The little shampoo bottle that was in my room was still over three quarters full as it was with the conditioner. The soap I used was also still a big brick. Have you ever checked into a hotel and been given half a bottle of shampoo? Did you ever stop to wonder what happens to all these partially-used toiletries? Indeed, they are thrown out! I now carry a plastic bag in my luggage and take these items with me for use at home after my hotel stay. We incur so much waste in our world, some of it is even unintentional. We can be stewards some of the time or all of the time; it is all up to us.

Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Scripture Reflection

Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. (1 Cor. 10. 31)

Everything and everyone is from God and of God. Your life is God's. You are a steward of God's life in you. Therefore, let everything you do glorify God.

Eco-Thought

Trees are the earth's endless effort to speak to the listening heaven.

--Rabindranath Tagore

We are faced with choices every single day. Something we all need to consider is the impact our choices make on the environment and our health. When it comes to food, I've heard it said that "If you can drive through it, it probably isn't good for you." Consider cutting out at least one or two visits to the drive-through per month. Instead of idling your vehicle while waiting for your treat, park your vehicle and go inside. You will reduce emissions production and also encourage a greater appreciation of the food you eat and the people who prepare it by not eating on the run. Avoiding the drive-through may even reduce the number of visits you make thereby improving your health and reducing the disposable packaging you consume.

Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

Scripture Reflection

"We have never seen anything like this!" (Mark 2:12)

Jesus amazed people with the miracles he performed and also with his teaching, his mercy, his justice, his choice of friends, and his complete gift of self. Discipleship is counter-cultural. Glorify God with the boldness of your discipleship.

Eco-Thought

He scatters the snow like birds flying down,
and its descent is like locusts alighting.

The eye is dazzled by the beauty of its whiteness,
and the mind is amazed as it falls.

--Sirach 43, 17b - 18

The impact Jesus had on the disciples and the people around him still compels us today. The actions of few can make all the difference. Every major change in thinking or discovery in human history began with a single idea and then spread. When it comes to stewardship, our collective efforts will add up to make a big difference. Thank you for the boldness of every little thing you do as a steward of God's gifts.