



ALL SAINTS

A Stewardship Parish

Volume 14, Issue 10

Inside

- 2 *Stewardship* Becoming Fishers of Men
- 3 All Saints Catholic School: Forming Our Students in Faith, Responding With Love
- 4 Stewardship Weekend: Both a Renewal and a Revival for All Saints
- 6 The Principles of Catholic Social Teaching
- 7 Good Stewardship of Our Social Media

*Our Parish
Newsletter:*

*Spreading the news
of Christ at work
in our community.*

A Letter from Our Pastoral Administrator

“Here I Am, Lord.” But Are You Really There? Are You Responding to God’s Call?

Dear Saints,

Throughout the Bible we hear people say, “Here I am, Lord,” or something similar. Normally, it is a response to a communication, a call, from God. In the Old Testament Book of Exodus, for example, it states, “God called out to him from the bush: ‘Moses! Moses!’ He answered, ‘Here I am’” (Exodus 3:4). We often speak in the Church about the fact that we have each received a calling from God. We also regularly say that one way to respond to that call is to live a life of stewardship.

Of course, the truth is that many do not hear God’s call because they are either not listening or they do not want to hear it. Of course, that is not how we should feel. I could write about my own call, but right now, I would rather address your call.

This is a time of year when there are calls from those in need all around us. Some of those calling are ministries right here in our parish. Before I address our response, it is important to emphasize that we need to hear the call. To hear something, we have to be listening.

The second issue is our response to the call. Do we indeed say, “Here I am”? Or, do we choose to say and do nothing? Stewardship is a call to action, a call to do something to share with and to help others. In the Old Testament passage cited above, Moses responds, “Who am I?” (Exodus 3:11) – meaning he feels



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Stewardship

Becoming Fishers of Men

Whether you hold a high-profile position, such as parish council president, or have more of a behind-the-scenes role as a coordinator of a parish ministry, God has called you – as a parish leader – to help build His Church.

This challenge is just as important as the call of any other Catholic leader, including the earliest disciples.

When Jesus walked along the Sea of Galilee, He urged a group of fishermen, “Come follow me.” Jesus promised if they laid down their nets and followed Him, He would make them fishers of men. These men were among His original disciples, and they knew Christ’s call was so important that they left their secular occupation to follow Him.

Just as He did with the fishermen, Jesus calls each of us today. He is not necessarily asking us to leave our secular careers, but He *is* asking us to put Him first in our lives and to share His message of love with others.

God truly wants us to serve Him and to build His Church through the secular occupations we have chosen. It is through the Church that new disciples are born, and it is in the Church that disciples continue to mature. Forming disciples of Christ is the most important work that can be done on earth, and each of us has been called to play an active role in this work.

So, how do we go about building the Church? Where do we find the plans?

Some people mistakenly think that building the Church – in particular, building our own parish or diocese – is no different than building a successful business. Indeed, the

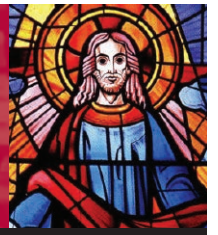
purpose of building the Church is to change hearts – a goal that only God can accomplish.

Secular society has not prepared us for this work. However, the Holy Spirit – sometimes referred to as the “Architect of the Church” – has the plan. In order to implement this plan, we must become good listeners. We must open ourselves to the workings of the Holy Spirit as He transforms us and guides us to carry out God’s work and to serve as His instruments on earth, building the Church together with Him.

This is where spiritual exercises, such as retreats, come into play. A retreat offers the individual an opportunity to spend time alone with the Lord, allowing God to draw the person deeper into the mystery of who He is, who we are and what He is doing in our lives. Stewardship retreats can offer parish leaders the opportunity each year to spend time with the Lord as He directs them in the ways of discipleship. As leaders, we must take time to meditate on the Scriptures and allow Jesus to open up His Word to us. Then, as we grow deeper in our understanding of what God wants of us, we can exclaim, just as the first disciples did on the road to Emmaus, “Our hearts are burning within us” (Lk 24:32).

God has placed an extremely important call on the lives of all parish leaders, no matter how big or small the role. It is vital to understand how we, as parish leaders, can best answer His call. What, in particular, is the Lord calling each one of us to do? He most likely is not asking us to drop our nets, but to pick them up and become “fishers of men.” We must discern how we can most effectively cast our nets for Him.





All Saints Catholic School: Forming Our Students in Faith, Responding With Love

October is here, and it seems September could not end fast enough. Last month, our country and our global community were hit hard with natural disasters, and many of our fellow brethren have been left with little to nothing. The response of our community has been absolutely wonderful. The outpouring of care and love for those affected by the hurricanes reminds me of why we are so lucky to be a part of All Saints. Our community is full of people who understand we all must do our part to help those in need. People like the DeLeon family who organized a goods drive and sent a U-Haul truck full of supplies down to Friendswood, Texas after Hurricane Harvey, and families like the Moothart family who have organized a community garage sale to send proceeds to Catholic Charities for hurricane relief projects, make our community what it is.

When times are hard like these, it is important we speak to our youth about the role our Catholic faith plays in how we decide to respond. These conversations happen daily at our school. The faith is integrated into everything we do at All Saints. At every event, we take the time to pray and be thankful for the many gifts God has bestowed on us. We start and end our day in prayer and reflection. We encourage our students to understand their faith and let it shine in their actions and words. Our teachers care about the moral and academic well-being of our students. The small learning atmosphere allows teachers to know students extremely well and build a great relationship. This relationship allows our teachers to not only teach the child but to also mentor the child.

This month, All Saints Catholic School will be hosting our first of three Open House events. These events are opportunities for parents to experience the All Saints Difference and receive information about what makes All Saints a premier school in the Catholic Diocese of Dallas. We hope you will join us at one of these events, and we can't wait to welcome your children to All Saints Catholic School.



Open House Dates

Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2017, 8:30 – 11 a.m.

Sunday, Nov. 5, 2017, 12 – 2 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2017, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Visit www.AllSaintsPreK8.org to RSVP



Stewardship Weekend:

In the midst of this busy fall season, the stewardship renewal weekend (Oct. 7-8) at All Saints is a time to stop and reflect on the many gifts we have received from God and the ways in which we can put them to use here in our parish and community. In what ways do we already share our time, talent, and treasure with God and His Church? And how are we able to continue, and perhaps

even increase, our commitment to serving His people?

As Pastoral Administrator Fr. Alfonse Nazzaro points out, good stewardship is the natural result of a sense of investment in our faith community.

“What I like to emphasize is that people give because they are committed to the parish, they believe in the parish, and they have tremendous hope in the parish,” Fr. Alfonse affirms.

One of Father’s primary goals for All Saints is to increase the parishioners’ excitement about the future of our Church. As a first step in the process, the parish will develop a strategic plan outlining where they would like to be three years from now, five years from now, and moving forward. Parishioners will be asked to participate in a survey that will help give Father an idea of what needs could be better addressed in our parish.

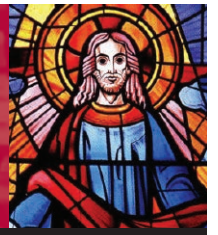
As Fr. Alfonse explains, when people have a sense of commitment to the church, their desire to share their time, talent, and treasure naturally grows. More often than not, this “domino effect” begins with a positive experience at the weekend Mass.

“The first goal is to be able to offer the best Sunday experience possible,” Father says. “When someone comes for Mass, we want them to be able to leave completely fulfilled, engaged, and thinking ‘Wow, I just received God.’ That means that we all – including the musicians, the lectors, the greeters, the ushers, the Eucharistic Ministers – have to be able to deliver what our people expect and need. And the homilies have to resonate and be relatable.”

Fr. Alfonse’s second goal for the parish in this season of renewal is an emphasis on our ministries, seeking to increase parishioner participation and ensure that each ministry is meeting its goals.

One of the ministries Father is most excited about is the Alpha Ministry for young adults in their 20s. He hopes that this group – along with the five o’clock teen Mass – will help young people feel more engaged in the faith community.





Both a Renewal and a Revival for All Saints

Here at All Saints, there is truly a ministry for everyone, and although they are all different, each one offers great rewards to those who serve.

“When parishioners are serving a ministry they are passionate about, it means that they have encountered Christ in a personal way,” Fr. Alfonse says. “Once they feel they have experienced Christ, they commit themselves to the community. It becomes such a joy; and that is where they discover their vocations.”

Just last month, Fr. Alfonse witnessed the great outpouring of community support when our parish surpassed our original goal of raising \$20,000 during the North Texas Giving Day, before going on to meet and exceed a second goal of \$40,000! And by all accounts, it appears that our annual Fall Fest also broke records for the number of tickets and food items sold this year.

As the parishioners at All Saints continue to become more and more invested in our faith community, we are sure to receive countless blessings in return.

“You see growth in a community where people are actively encouraging each other to go to church and are willing to sacrifice their time and their treasure to make an impact in the community,” Fr. Alfonse says. “You see the joy, and you see that the Word of God is really reaching out to all – young, old, healthy, sick, all races, and all genders.”

“When parishioners are serving a ministry they are passionate about, it means that they have encountered Christ in a personal way. Once they feel they have experienced Christ, they commit themselves to the community. It becomes such a joy; and that is where they discover their vocations.” – Fr. Alfonse Nazzaro, Pastoral Administrator

*All Saints
Catholic Community*



2018 Commitment Card
My Offering of Time, Talent & Treasure

First & Last Name

Envelope #

Phone

Email

Spouse: First & Last Name

Spouse: Phone

Spouse: Email

Address

City

State

ZIP



The Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

What makes being Catholic, well, “Catholic”?

Things like the Mass, the Rosary and the Seven Sacraments come to mind.

But there is also an element of Church teaching that’s often overlooked and sometimes misunderstood – Catholic Social Teaching.

Catholic Social Teaching guides Catholics on how to apply the faith to all aspects of life, and lays the framework for the Church’s teachings on the dignity and sacredness of human life.

Catholic Social Teaching can be explained with 10 key points. These 10 principles demonstrate the depth of the Church’s teaching on social justice, and they call Catholics to take an active role in shaping the world in which we live. Catholic Social Teaching, when taken to heart, can become the catalyst that causes positive change in a world that desperately needs it. Consider these principles and strive to apply them in your own life.

Human Dignity

Human dignity is the fundamental principle within the Church’s teaching on social justice. A firm understanding of this principle is required so that the rest of Catholic Social Teaching can be viewed from the appropriate perspective. God created us in His image and likeness, so we all are worthy of respect.

Respect for Human Life

Whether unborn or seconds away from death, no life deserves to be prematurely ended. The Church sees this principle as crucial to the health of any society.

Association

Association holds that social relationships must be developed so that all people may reach their fullest potential. The Church teaches that the family is the basic unit upon which all other elements of society rest. We must uphold the sacredness of the family, and foster the growth of other societal organizations that preserve the well-being of all people.

Participation

All people deserve the right to work and to participate in God’s creation. The joy of accomplishing a task and performing honest labor should be made available to all people.

Protection for the Poor and Vulnerable

Society exists in a balance between those with power, and those without it. The vulnerable – those with disabilities – and the poor must be protected from those with power who choose to wield it in an unjust manner.

Solidarity

“Love your neighbor as yourself” – this commandment extends beyond the boundaries of any town, state or country. The principle of solidarity encourages all people to reach out to their brothers and sisters in need and to help them, even if they live halfway around the world.

Stewardship

Everything we have – even our own lives – is a gift from God. Our talents, our time and our financial resources are not our own, but God’s. The same goes for the natural resources we so often take for granted.

Responsibilities and Limits of Government

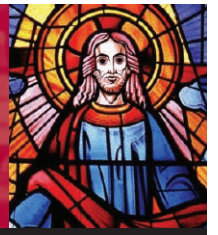
Governments, while created for the common good, sometimes overstep their boundaries. The Church teaches that all governments should seek to operate at the lowest level of organization possible – striving to solve problems at the source, with those who understand them best, and not through oppressive force.

Human Equality

God made all humans equal, including those of different ethnicity and race, and in different stages of life. No one person is of more value than another.

Common Good

It is especially important in our society to promote the common good – the social well-being and development of the “human group.” If we consider the entire human race as one family, the common good urges us to support our brothers and sisters so that they may reach their full potential.



Good Stewardship of Our Social Media

When we are talking about the idea of stewardship and how we care for the tools and gifts we have been given, it is not often that we stop to have a conversation about how we are caring for and using the gift of social media to positively spread Gospel values. However, this is an appropriate topic for us to consider when we are talking about the many young people, as well as adults, who gather online on a frequent basis. Therefore, it is important for us to think about how we are using the amazing gifts of technology.

If you are frequently online – especially on Pinterest – there is a popular acronym that you may have already come across. While it is used in many different contexts, it seems very appropriate to follow as we find ourselves posting statuses and pictures on various social media sites. The acronym is T.H.I.N.K., and it invites us to consider what we are saying and sharing, and whether or not it should be said!

Is what we are posting:

True? Are we sharing factual information or a rumor that we heard, and if we think our information is factual, what is our source? Is it trustworthy?

Helpful? Is the information we are sharing something that can be useful to another person? We don't need to over-examine all of our content to consider its "educational factor," but is the content we are posting going to help someone learn about us, learn about a place or an activity,

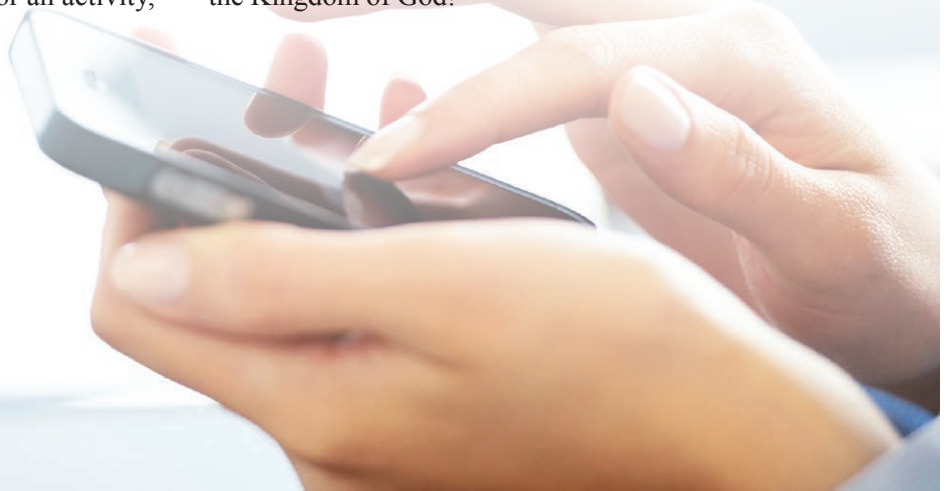
think about the world, reflect on life, engage us in laughter, and so forth?

Inspirational? There is certainly no requirement to be a poet or an artist, but social media has become a wonderful outlet for positive self-expression. "Positive" is the key word – are we posting to inspire others about the good in our world, or are we posting to cut someone down or to simply rant?

Nice? Have we considered the feelings of others when we include them in a status or post a picture of them? Will they be embarrassed? Are we using social media to humiliate and intimidate others, or are we using it to try to better the world and the lives of others?

Kind? What a great tool to compliment, show gratitude, and build the self-esteem of those you care about!

People often speak of social media in a negative way because of the content they see posted. T.H.I.N.K. is a great way for us to remind ourselves that we can be good stewards of our own social media use. Remember that there are many ways to share the Gospel without writing out its words. Gospel living has to do with the positive way we approach this life and bring God's light and love to others – and it couldn't be easier than sharing an uplifting status on Facebook, a Tweet of gratitude to a friend, or a beautiful image of God's inspiring creation on Instagram. What a great way to build the Kingdom of God!





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5231 Meadowcreek Drive
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Weekend Liturgy:

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

*Sunday, 7:45 a.m., 9:15 a.m.,
11:00 a.m.*

LifeTeen Mass, 5:00 p.m.

Weekday Liturgy:

Monday - Friday, 6:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, 9:00 a.m.

Address Service Requested

"Here I Am, Lord." But Are You Really There? Are You Responding to God's Call? *continued from front cover*

unworthy and unable to fulfill this call from the Lord. God's answer is everything, as He says to Moses simply, "I will be with you" (Exodus 3:12). Thus, we receive the call; we are to respond to God making it clear that we are ready. We may quite likely feel (as Moses did) that we are unprepared for what God may be asking us to do, but His response to Moses was the same as His response to us – "I will be with you."

That is enough to empower us and strengthen us to try to serve God and fulfill His desires for us. Of course, there is one other call to which we need to respond. It is, as Christ said many times, "Come follow Me."

As we enter this part of our personal year, this part of our calendar year, and this part of our Church year, may we be ready to listen, to respond, and then to do – full with the knowledge that the Lord is with us always!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Alfonse Nazzaro
Pastoral Administrator

*That is enough to empower us and strengthen us to try to serve God and fulfill His desires for us. Of course, there is one other call to which we need to respond. It is, as Christ said many times, "**Come follow Me.**"*