



ALL SAINTS

A Stewardship Parish

Volume 15, Issue 8

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Our Parish Newsletter:

Spreading the news of Christ at work in our community.

A Letter from Our Pastoral Administrator

As Summer Winds Down, Fall Back into Stewardship

Dear Saints,

August has traditionally been regarded as a summer month — a continuation of July with a few differences, namely back-to-school sales that arrive during the month. But now, many schools begin the academic year in August, with the ever-present back-to-school sales falling even earlier in July.

So do we regard August as “still summer” or “the beginning of fall”? While I don’t have an answer to that question, I do know that it’s a time when we should be thinking about how we’re going to serve as Christian disciples and stewards once the fall routines begin.

Even for adults long out of school, the concept of “summer vacation” has a strong hold on us. Sure, some take vacations in the fall to see the leaves, or in winter for skiing or to see family during the Christmas season — but we still think of the summer as *the* time for vacations. Many also have the preconceived notion that “nothing happens” in our parish over the summer. Yes, Mass is still regularly celebrated, and there are weddings and funerals. But otherwise, the parish is a quieter place during the summer months... isn’t it?

Of course, that is certainly not the case. In parishes across America, there are summer programs like Vacation Bible School for the children, and youth groups are attending conferences and sharing in service projects in areas of need. In addition, both our staff and our volunteers are busy during the summer, as they prepare for all “normally scheduled” activities that resume after Labor Day.

That brings me to my main point — how are *you* preparing to serve as a steward once Labor Day is past? Have you thought of how you can best serve the Lord Jesus with the talent He has entrusted to you? Have you planned how you can arrange your schedule to offer Him more of your time in prayer, worship and study?



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Stewardship's "Supreme Teacher" *Following Christ's Example*

Former President and Five-Star General Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, "You don't lead by hitting people over the head — that's assault, not leadership." President Eisenhower's words are both blunt and humorous, but he makes a great point. Almost any successful endeavor in life requires the benefit of strong leadership. And a truly effective leader does not lead by simply telling others what to do, but by providing a strong example of how to carry oneself on a daily basis.

This is no different for us in our lives as Catholic Christians. As individuals who face numerous difficult choices every day, we require a leader who, through word *and* example, can show us the path to living according to God's will. For us, Jesus is the supreme teacher of every aspect of Christian life, and His life as documented in the Gospels is a model that we should strive to imitate in living as good Christians. And as we have learned, stewardship — the sharing of the gifts that God has given to us — is a big part of Christian life, and one for which Jesus left many examples of successful living.

Jesus' nature of selfless service, documented many times throughout the New Testament and culminating with His death for our sins, is an underlying aspect of living the stewardship way of life. As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops points out in its pastoral document *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, "In Jesus' teaching and life self-emptying is fundamental. Now, it might seem that self-emptying has little to do with stewardship, but in Jesus' case that is not so. His self-emptying is not sterile self-denial for its own sake; rather, in setting aside self, he is filled with the Father's will, and he is fulfilled in just this way" (19).

Jesus points out to Peter in Mark's Gospel that this "self-emptying" requires sacrifice, but ultimately leads to "eternal life in the age to come" (Mk 10:30). But the Christian steward's ultimate reward is not his or her only benefit from living the stewardship way of life. By sharing of our time, talent, and treasure, and living in imitation of Christ, we can relate more closely to Him in sharing, in a

small way, in His sacrifice. "To be a Christian disciple is a rewarding way of life, a way of companionship with Jesus, and the practice of stewardship as a part of it is itself a source of deep joy. Those who live this way are happy people who have found the meaning and purpose of living" (*Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, 21).

The next time you are frustrated or unsure of how to best respond to God's gifts in stewardship, take a moment to open up the Bible. Jesus may not "hit us over the head" in His leadership, but He does provide numerous examples through His actions and teachings of how to live as one of His disciples.





Parish Fall Festival to Offer



The All Saints Parish Fall Festival again promises to be jam-packed with exciting activities for our younger parishioners and plenty of good times on hand for the grown-ups, too!

Mark your calendar for September 15 and 16, when our All Saints Parish community will host two days crammed with games, auctions, raffles, great food and loads of entertainment throughout our Meadowcreek campus. Anne Connally is chairing the festival this year. Our Fall Festival committee of about 30 parishioners have been busy making sure that the 2018 Fall Festival truly has something for all ages.

Festival hours for Saturday, September 15 are 11 a.m. through 10 p.m. On Sunday, September 16, the hours are from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

“Returning this year is the very popular petting zoo and pony rides, and lots of games for the kids,” Anne says. “But there’s more at the festival than activities just for kids.”

There will be live entertainment both days, with performers on the outdoor stage at all times. The Fellowship Hall stage will also host several acts during the festival. The Saturday night headliner band is Dallas Dance Band, a high-energy, fun rollercoaster of a band sure to bring everyone to their feet and keep them dancing through the night! The talent grown right in our own parish will also be highlighted on the festival stage with performances from The Epic Big Band, the amazing group you’ve heard at the Sunday pancake breakfasts, Crosswinds Jazz Band, the All Saints School Drill Team and the All Saints Orchestra, plus more!

Members of our different ministries and organizations will be preparing the food, which includes barbecue, brats, burgers, hot dogs, pizza, homemade cakes, cotton candy, popcorn, turkey legs, tamales and various Mexican dishes. Our Courtyard Wine and Beer Garden will be open and various booths will offer soft drinks.

The Cake Walk, Wine Pull and BINGO are back!

“And lots of camaraderie!” Anne says.

This is the 16th year of the festival with its tagline, “Food, Fun and Fellowship.”

While you’re enjoying all the Fall Festival has to offer, you can be sure that 100 percent of the profits go back to our parish.



Plenty of Food, Fun and Fellowship

“We’re doing our part to get the money raised,” Anne says.

But there are other important reasons for us to attend. Besides the camaraderie, the event offers the opportunity to live in stewardship.

“It’s a sense of community, to give back to the church, either through volunteering or sponsoring,” Anne says. “It’s a great way to be involved sharing your time and talent, whether it’s those who can help work on the committee or help with the activities. You can donate auction items, or prizes for games, and we need help with the food. Between 2,500 to 3,000 people show up on festival weekend — 30 volunteers can’t possibly support these multitudes by themselves. It takes the entire parish to pull off an event this size.

“There really is something for everyone to do,” Anne adds. “So many people who go to Mass, and that’s all you see [them do] — and I was one for years. But once you put in your talent, this is how you can give back. And the people you meet! It’s a big deal to help when you are needed. It’s also a big event for fellowship. You see it more as a fellowship event than a fundraiser. It is for everyone. A lot of people think, ‘I don’t have kids,’ but there’s something for everyone, even for singles and young adults. You get camaraderie and fantastic food. There’s a lot going on!”

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The Faith Journey of St. Genesis

Being a performer and a comedian may sound like a fun way to make a living.

St. Genesis, an outstanding actor, playwright and comedian in late Imperial Rome, certainly did have some fun for a while. But his career and life came to an abrupt end when his work ultimately led him to Christ.

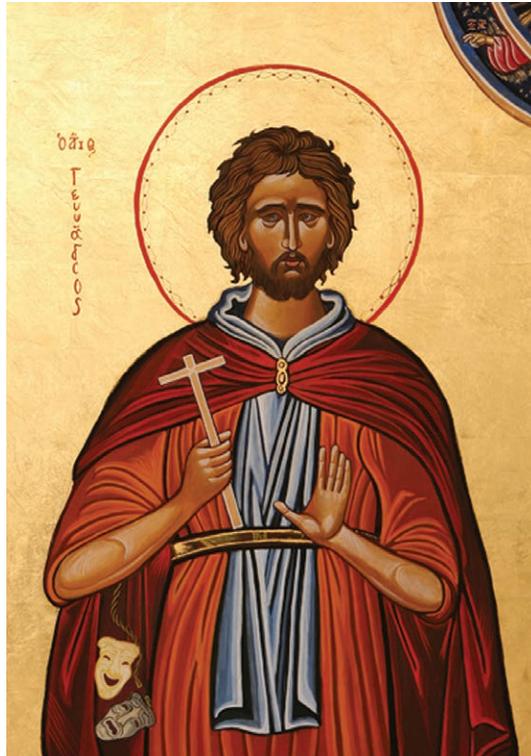
Genesisus was a comedian of some renown, but in the fourth century, Christians were often discouraged from becoming actors because ancient Roman comedy was highly sexual, crude and offensive.

In the year 303, Emperor Diocletian launched what would be the last great Roman persecution against the Christian Church. So, Genesisus used the persecution as an opportunity to write a comedy about Christianity. He thought it might attract the attention of the Emperor, increase his fame, and make him some money in the process.

Genesisus approached leaders of the Christian community in Rome and presented himself as a catechumen seeking Baptism. He was then invited into a period of instruction in the faith, in order to learn the beliefs of the Christians. He was particularly taken by the idea of Baptism. But at the time, he had no plans to convert to the faith – it was all just a part of his plan to research new material to use for his comedy.

But a strange thing happened to Genesisus as he began to work on his play, which was to be a comedy on Baptism. As Genesisus began teaching the other actors about Baptism, he began to believe, and a desire to be baptized grew within his heart.

The opening night of the play was a great success, with Emperor Diocletian in attendance. But at some point



during the play, the Holy Spirit touched Genesisus. He was no longer acting.

“You fools, I wish to die a Christian,” Genesisus said. When the other actors asked him why, he said, “All my life I have been a fugitive, and only today have I found God.”

Everyone, especially Emperor Diocletian, laughed as Genesisus spoke. Genesisus, standing in a pulpit designed to look like the goddess Venus, began to preach to the audience. He told the crowd how he once hated Christians and enjoyed insulting them. He told the crowd how he deserted his own family as a child because they were Christians.

From there, Genesisus addressed Diocletian, stating that he wrote the play to mock Christians, but had been converted on the spot during the course of the play, by the power of Holy Spirit. “I now know that the Lord Jesus Christ is the true God, the Light, the Truth and the Mercy of all who have received His gift of Baptism,” Genesisus said. “O great Emperor, believe in these mysteries! I will teach you, and you will know the Lord Jesus Christ is the true God.”

Diocletian was furious and stopped the play, having the troupe arrested and beaten, while Genesisus was condemned to torture. Through all of his sufferings, he continued to confess that Jesus was God. When this failed to break his spirit, Diocletian ordered Genesisus be beheaded. His final words were, “Our Lord Jesus Christ is God and we shall have life in His name.”

St. Genesisus is the patron of comedians and actors. His feast day is August 25th.



Safe Environment Program Committed to Wellbeing of Our Youth and Vulnerable Adults

It was several years ago that the Diocese of Dallas launched the Safe Environment program, mandated for each parish. In doing so, the diocese stated, “As Christian adults, we have a moral and legal responsibility and are entrusted by God with the spiritual, emotional and physical wellbeing of minors and vulnerable adults as they participate in activities within or sponsored by the Diocese of Dallas. It is our responsibility and commitment to provide an environment which is safe and nurturing.”

The Safe Environment program implements training, screening, background checks and other procedures that are designed to reduce the risk of sexual abuse of children and vulnerable adults. Every parish, school and diocesan agency is responsible for program implementation and continuation.

All Saints has established a Safe Environment office and program, and for the past two years, Elizabeth Horsley has served as our Safe Environment Director.

“What our office does has continued to expand and develop,” Elizabeth says. “In addition to providing ongoing training for staff and volunteers, we now deal with safety and security issues in all aspects of church life.”

Safe Environment screening procedures are to be used with staff and volunteers who work directly with minors and vulnerable adults. Other volunteers who must follow the screening procedures are all Liturgical Ministers who serve at our Masses.

“I, of course, received extensive training in order to supervise the office,” Elizabeth says. “Once we have trained an individual, they continue to receive updates and additional information, some of which may require follow up on their part.”

Safe Environment clearance is required for all volunteers who work with a ministry involved with youth — under 18 — and/or vulnerable adults. This includes, but is not limited to, Faith Formation programs, Youth Ministry, VBS

PROMISE TO PROTECT



and ancillary school programs like lunchroom or playground monitors, field trip chaperones, office help, clinic help, sports coaches, tutors, or after-school activities.

As an indication that all in a leadership position serve as examples, each member of a major parish and school committee, as well as the leaders of major parish and school organizations are expected to maintain an active Safe Environment clearance and to employ Safe Environment practices in any activity sponsored by that organization.

“As threats have continued to develop in our society, and with the desire to be as prepared as possible for everything, we now conduct CPR training, as well as training in what to do in the event of a situation where we find our people in threatening circumstances,” Elizabeth says. “In order to remain current, we established a Safe Environment Advisory Committee for the parish and school. That Committee serves as an advisory group to the pastor on policy matters relating to developing and maintaining a safe environment for the parish community.”

If you would like more information about our Safe Environment program, please contact Elizabeth Horsley at 972-778-0311 or ehorsley@allsaintsdallas.org. Additional information may be found on the All Saints website at <http://www.allsaintsdallas.org/about-us/safe-environment/>, or on our diocesan website in the “Safe Environment” section, <https://cathdal.org/a-safe-environment>.



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Weekend Liturgy:

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

*Sunday, 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m.,
11:00 a.m.*

Teen 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

As Summer Winds Down, Fall Back into Stewardship *continued from front cover*

Have you considered how your budget might be re-arranged to share more of the treasure in your care?

Maybe our Lord is inviting you to teach religious education, or to work with the youth, or to visit shut-ins, or to volunteer at a food bank, or to sing in the choir, or to attend weekday Mass, or... well, you get the idea. While we count down the days and wait for autumn to arrive, we can use our time to evaluate how we can be better disciples, better stewards and better Christians — this fall and throughout the rest of our lives.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Alfonse Nazzaro
Pastoral Administrator

