

1811 Pueblo Vista Dr. Las Vegas, NV 89128 Parish Office 702-228-8311 Fax 702-228-8310 School 702- 804-8328 www.seaslv.org

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday Vigil: 4:00pm Sunday: 6:30am, 8:00am, 10:00am, 12:00pm, 4:00pm, 6:00pm Mon.-Sat.: 8:00am

ADORATION

Mon.-Fri.: 8:30am-7:00pm. Sat.: 8:30am-3:00pm.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 8:30am (or by appointment)

MORNING PRAYER

Mon.-Sat: 7:10am

ROSARY

Mon.-Sat: 7:30am

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Mon.-Fri.: 8:30am-5:00pm Sat.: 8:30am-4:00pm Closed daily: 12pm-1:00pm

CHURCH OPENS

Mon.-Sat.: 7:00am Sun.: 5:30am

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ June 22, 2014

Parish Staff

Pastor

Fr. Bede Wevita 702-228-8311 frbwevita@seaslv.org

Associate Pastor

To Be Announced

Deacons

Dcn. Joe Deegan Dcn. Aruna Silva

Executive Assistant to Fr. Bede

Rosie Arellano 702-804-8312 rarellano@seaslv.org

School Principal

Dr. Carey Roybal-Benson 702-804-8328 droybal-benson@seaslv.org

Director of Faith Formation

Helen Silva 702-804-8351 hsilva@seaslv.org

Faith Formation Assistant

Patricia Pavliga 702-804-8306 ppavliga@seaslv.org

Director of Youth Ministry

Meghan Hernandez 702-804-8313 mhernandez@seaslv.org

Director of Music Ministry

Dee Dee Brunelle 702-804-8308 dbrunelle@seaslv.org

Outreach Coordinator

Jeanne Kilduff 702-804-8311 jeanne@seaslv.org

Receptionist/Gift Shop

Cheryl Shaffer 702-804-8302 cshaffer@seaslv.org

Parish Business Manager

Steve Schmitt 702-804-8305 sschmitt@seaslv.org

Financial Assistants

Sal Milano 702-804-8322 Helen Little 702-804-8315 smilano@seaslv.org

Kitchen Coordinator

Maureen Cerza 702-804-8307 mcerza@seaslv.org

Volunteer Coordinator

Ingrid Quinlan 702-804-8310 iquinlan@seaslv.org



Dcn. Steve Doucet 702-804-8303 Welcome to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Register in the Parish In order that we may better serve you, please register in the parish. This way you are known to us when requesting the services of the church. Registration forms are available in the gathering space of the church, online at www.seaslv.org, and in the gift shop.

Sacrament of Baptism Baptisms for infants and children up to 7 years of age are celebrated on Sundays during Mass or in Groups on the 1st & 3rd Sundays at 1:45pm. Parents should attend the baptism class on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Church.

Sacrament of Matrimony At least one party must be a registered, participating member of the parish for at least 4 months. A 6 month minimum time period is needed to complete the marriage preparation requirements. The first step is for both parties to meet with Fr. Bede Wevita. To make an appointment please call the parish office.

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick Call the parish office if you need to receive the anointing of the sick. In case of hospitalization, let the hospital staff know that you would like to have one of the Catholic priest chaplains see you. For assistance after hours please call the answering service at 702-388-9571 and a priest will be notified.

Holy Communion to the Sick If you are at home, please call Tom & Patty at 702-285-5573 and an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion will visit you. In case of hospitalization, inform the admissions department that you are a Catholic and would like to receive Communion.

Mass Intentions Mass requests are scheduled through the parish office during office hours. If a specific date is desired, please schedule as far in advance as possible.

Funerals In the event of a death of a loved one, please contact the Funeral Ministry at 702-403-8416 BEFORE making arrangements with any of the professional services. Pre-planning is available.

Vocations Please consult with one of the priests.

Mass Intentions

Saturday-06/21 8:00am Father's Day Novena 4:00pm Book of Rememberance

Sunday-06/22 6:30am Parishioners of SEAS 8:00am †Helen Aylward 10:00am †Christine Baumgardt 12:00pm Osvaldo Morones 4:00pm Father's Day Novena 6:00pm †Marion Blagdon

Monday-06/23 8:00am Father's Day Novena

Tuesday-06/24 8:00am †Andrew Blagdan

Wednesday-06/25 8:00am †Elizabeth

Thursday-06/26 8:00am Sharon Frank

Friday-6/27 8:00am Novena for Deceased

Saturday-6/28 8:00am †Joseph & Anna Terranova 4:00pm Keith Schild

Sunday-6/29 6:30am †Theresa Clark 8:00am Parishioners of SEAS 10:00am Carlos Duenas 12:00pm †Maria Frezza 4:00pm Book of Remembrance 6:00pm †Paula Tuason

Prayer List

Recently: Perette Family Angie DeMarco Previously announced: William Steinbaugh Elissa Lechnir Aurora Valdez **Dennis Dougherty** Cassandra Murzl Joyce Bernard Don Hughes Lou Edwards Josefina Viloria Pat Edwards-Mack Paula Hoffower Patty Futterer

Pastor's Note

Greetings from the Holy Land!

Dear Parishioners, I arrived safely in the Holy Land and am enjoying my retreat very much. Some of the major sites I have been fortunate to visit include the Sea of Galilee, the Jordan River, and Bethlehem. In my absence if a pastoral need arise please notify the parish office. Fr. Joe Annese, Fr. Dan Nelson, and Msgr. Joe Cosgrove have promised me they will take good care of you! I will be on Saturday, June 28th. Please continue to pray that I may have safe travels and a spiritually rich experience. I of course, will remember you in my daily masses.-Fr. Bede

Clockwise from top-right: Fr. Bede kneels at the place of Jesus' birth in the Grotto of the Nativity. Celebrating Mass at Tabgha, Israel (multiplication of loaves) Sunrise view over the Sea of Galilee.

Offertory and Attendance									
June 15, 2014	Offering	Attendance							
4:00pm Vigil	4,879.51	693							
6:30am	4,202.00	512							
8:00am	4,635.00	650							
10:00am	5,943.00	1117							
12:00pm	3,544.00	809							
4:00pm	3,504.50	450							
6:00pm	2,752.37	499							
Mailed-in	882.00								
Online	4,314.00								
	34,656.38								





Support our Bulletin Our weekly bulletin is made possible by the advertisements found on pages 16 through 19. When the number of advertisements decreases to less than half of a page, the parish could incur unnecessary and additional charges. Consider supporting the SEAS bulletin. To advertise your business or service, contact Paul Clark at 702-717-2205.

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Readings for the week

Monday: 2 Kgs 17:5-8, 13-15a, 18; Ps 60:3-5, 12-13;

Mt 7:1-5

Tuesday: Vigil: Jer 1:4-10; Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17;

1 Pt 1:8-12; Lk 1:5-17

Day: Is 49:1-6; Ps 139:1-3, 13-15; Acts 13:22-26; Lk 1:57-66, 80

Wednesday: 2 Kgs 22:8-13; 23:1-3; Ps 119:33-37, 40;

Mt 7:15-20

Thursday: 2 Kgs 24:8-17; Ps 79:1b-5, 8-9; Mt 7:21-29

Friday: Dt 7:6-11; Ps 103:1-4, 6-8, 10; 1 Jn 4:7-16;

Mt 11:25-30

Saturday: Lam 2:2, 10-14, 18-19; Ps 74:1b-7, 20-21;

Mt 8:15-17 or, for the Memorial of the Immaculate Heart, Is 61:9-11; Lk 2:41-51

Sunday: Vigil: Acts 3:1-10; Ps 19:2-5; Gal 1:11-20;

Jn 21:15-19

Day: Acts 12:1-11; Ps 34:2-9; 2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18; Mt 16:13-19

Died in Christ



D. J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Mrs. Geraldine Jankowski Condolences may be sent to: Fr. Jim Jankowski St. John Neumann Catholic Church 2575 W. El Campo Grande Ave., N. Las Vegas, NV 89031



Diocesan and Parish Special Collections we

are so blessed to have thoughtful, generous parishioners who support the

good works of our faith community with their time, talent, and treasure. Several have asked for the schedule of special collections that will occur throughout the year. Our upcoming special collections for the month of June appear below:

- June 15-Father's Day Remembrance
- June 29-Peter's Pence Collection

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday: The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Monday: Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time
Tuesday: The Nativity of St. John the Baptist
Friday: The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
Saturday: The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed

Virgin Mary; St. Irenaeus

Ramadan (Islamic observance) begins

A Stewardship Moment

Among the compelling Eucharistic themes proclaimed in today's readings is the notion of "participation" as found in Saint Paul's letter to the Corinthians. Good stewards are part of a Eucharistic family: loving, welcoming, serving. An important part of living as a steward comes about in the many ways we can participate in the life of the Church. No matter how much time we have to give, no matter what our skills or interests, no matter what our level of commitment, there is a way to participate as a good steward to enrich our lives and the lives of others to build up the Body of Christ.

Altar Flower Dedication

Would you like to honor a loved one, give thanks for an anniversary or accomplishment, or commemorate a loved one's birthday or death by sponsoring flowers on the altar? Your name and the names of your loved ones will be printed in the Sunday bulletin. The cost of the altar flowers is \$250. Please visit the parish office to secure your preferred date.

This week's altar flowers were donated by Charlotte Kelly in memory of her husband

Allen Kelly

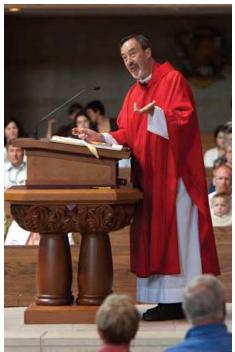
The Most Holy Body and Blood

The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy

"Preach it, brother!" Yes, there are Catholic assemblies that are free enough to make such exclamations. Have you ever been so excited that you wanted to make such a shout, or call out an "Amen"? People of many faiths flocked to houses of worship after the horror of September 11, 2001, looking to hear the Word of God and to hear it applied to that experience. When the homilist opens up God's Word and proclaims "God's wonderful works in the history of salvation," the People of God are moved. The homilist seeks to open the Word and liturgical celebration and to apply it to

the present time, place, and community. Finding our place in the midst of the grand story authored by God is one part of our lifelong quest, and the Homily is a moment in our journey where we find assistance in that search.

The 50th Anniversary of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy: A Parish Celebration © 2013 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. Orders: 1-800-933-1800. Written by Kristopher W. Seaman. Text from the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy © 1982, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation (ICEL). Imprimatur granted by the Reverend Monsignor John F. Canary, Vicar General, Archdiocese of Chicago on June 5, 2013.



"Preaching [is] . . . a proclamation of God's wonderful works in the history of salvation" (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 35)

You Are What You Eat

In John's Gospel, Jesus gives a long discourse on the Bread of Life. The first part talks of bread as a sign of God's loving care for the people. Like the manna in the desert, Jesus represents God caring for the people in a new way. But the part we hear in today's Gospel is more specific. He says the bread he will give is his flesh. The leaders of the Jews don't understand. Hopefully, we can do better.

In the pagan world at the time of Christ and before, a sacrifice was also a meal. An animal was ritually killed and burnt (i.e., cooked) to be shared at a meal with the people. The sacrifice was a gift to the god(s) that joined the people to their deity and also to each other. So Jesus used that understanding of sacrifice to explain his gift of



self. He would die on the cross as a sacrifice to the Father and we would share in the meal by consuming bread and wine, which are his Body and Blood. That meal is shared today in the Eucharist.

Better than the pagan sacrifice, the Eucharist unites us with God because Jesus is both human and divine. His humanity allowed him to represent us to the Father, as a lawyer represents a client to the court. Jesus' divinity allowed his sacrifice to be worthy of the Father, as no merely human gift could be. So giving his life on the cross was the best and only way that he could offer a true sacrifice to the Father.

The Eucharist also unites us to one another. We share this meal with other Christians as a sign of our common faith. Christ who gave himself to the Father on the cross also gives himself to us in the Eucharist. And because the food we share is the Body and Blood of Christ, we in a sense become what we eat. So we are all members of the Body of Christ. We show this by our love, by sharing our faith, by forgiving each other, and by our service to each other. If we believe that Jesus is divine, we must believe his word that the Eucharist is truly his Body and Blood, given for us. Tom Schmidt, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving St. Elizabeth Ann Seton wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for parishioners and provides much-needed donation consistency for our church. To get started, complete the authorization form below and return it to the parish office or visit www.seaslv.org and click on the Give Now button to create an online profile.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church Authorization Form											
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY ENV			ENVELOPE/DONOR #				DATE				
Effective date of authorization:/											
Type of authorization: New authorization			norization	Change donation amount			nount		Change donation date		
Change banking information					Discontinue electronic donation						
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AN	Church in Latin America Ash Wednesday: CRS: Good Friday: Catholic Communication Peter's Pence: Black and Indian Mission Seminary & Clergy: World Mission Sunday:	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$		Mission Catholic	Co-op: Schoon Elemarishes ent Fur Fund:	ols: \$ n Tuitior\$: \$ nd: \$					
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Parish News

Treasures from our Tradition

Ordinary Time beckons, and so on this Sunday we surrender the last glimmers of paschal joy as we celebrate the renewal of our life around the table of the Eucharist. This feast reminds us that the goal of the catechumen's journey through Lent is not the baptismal font at Easter, but rather the experience of Pentecost. It is all about life lived in the Spirit's embrace in relationship to the Body of Christ, which is found both "on the table" and "at the table."

"Confirmation
has sometimes
been sadly
misunderstood as
a kind of
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religious
formation, but it
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sort."

The season of confirmation is also drawing to a close, and this feast serves as a reminder that this sacrament, a solemn sending from font to table, is keyed to renewed vigor. Confirmation has sometimes been sadly misunderstood as a kind of graduation from religious formation, but it is nothing of the sort. It is about being led by the Lord Jesus to the place where the Spirit flourishes, and where the gifts of the Spirit are most easily detectable. After next week we will resume our

consideration of the sacrament of confirmation, its rich and somewhat tangled history, its challenging theology, and its changing celebration. -Rev. James Field, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

Vocation Committee

The SEAS Vocation Committee Meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 4:00 PM in Rm. 6 of the Parish Hall. We are responsible for promoting an awareness and need for vocations in our parish; to nurture, enlighten and pray for those who are responding to God's call. For more information contact Chris Pristas 702-363-6931 and please pray for our religious daily. About 75% of Catholic young people who have seriously considered religious life felt they were never encouraged to pursue that goal. Your encouragement may be all they need to answer God's call. Try it!

Pray for Vocations

Prayer is a moving force in vocation development. Prayer is effective; prayer is powerful; prayer is essential. Few are called to priesthood or religious life, but all are called to pray for vocations.

Lord, your Church is in need. Touch the hearts of many within our parish with the desire to serve you. Call forth from this community sisters, brothers, deacons, priests, and lay leaders. Help us to live lives that will nurture childhood trust into adult commitment. May this parish be a source of hope and a source of ministers for your Church, your people, and your world.

Amen.



FATHER BASIL LAWRENCE, O.S.B

Ordained to the Sacred Order of Priesthood On Saturday, June 14, 2014

WILL OFFER A MASS OF THANKSGIVING

Αт

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON CATHOLICH CHURCH

In Las Vegas, Nevada On Sunday, July 13, 2014 At 10:00am and 12:00pm

A reception will follow in the Parish Hall. Please join us.

Parish News

8:30 AM - Bus departs SEAS

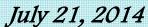
2:00 PM - Twelfth Night

6:00 PM - Dinner

8:00 PM - Into the Woods

11:00 PM - Depart Cedar City

*Schedule is based on show times and is subject to change



Join our parish on a one-day trip as we travel to Cedar City, Utah for the Shakespeare Festival! We will be viewing two shows:

"Twelfth Night" & "Into the Woods"

Cost: \$150 per person*

*includes tickets for both shows, bagged lunch on the bus, bus ride, and dinner

To purchase your tickets, please visit the parish office.

About the Plays

Twelfth Night Written by William Shakespeare Randall L. Jones Theatre **Directed by David Ivers** Orsino loves Olivia (who won't give him the time of day). Olivia loves Viola (whom she thinks is a boy). Viola loves Orsino (who



doesn't know she's a girl). Malvolio loves being in love, and Andrew, Toby Belch, and Maria love life to its fullest. It's all rollicking confusion, but this hilarious cast of characters, in the end, does find love when they least expect it.

About the Festival

The Utah Shakespeare Festival is a Tony Award-winning, professional theatre located on the campus of Southern Utah University that presents Shakespeare and plays from other playwrights every June through October in three theatres.

Into the Woods Music and Lyrics by **Stephen Sondheim Book by James Lapine Originally Directed on Broadway by James Lapine Orchestrations by Jonathan Tunick Randall L. Jones Theatre Directed by Jeremy Mann** An uncertain Cinderella.



A bloodthirsty Little Red Ridinghood. A wicked witch who sings and dances? They're all among the cockeyed characters of this fractured fairy tale. But in this modern musical, happiness-ever-after is not always what it seems: Actions have consequences, charming princes have flaws, and, well, killing a giant can make the giant's wife very angry.

- •The Adams Shakespearean Theatre is an outdoor replica of the Globe Theatre.
- •The Randall L. Jones Theatre is an indoor modern theatre.
- •The Auditorium Theatre is an indoor theatre used mostly for matinees and a rain stage.

Parish News



Sacristans Altar Servers

Come and see what these ministries have to offer you and what you can offer to these ministries!

Sacristans - June 28 8:30 am Altar Servers - July 12 8:30 am

Are you looking for your niche in our catholic community? St Elizabeth Ann Seton will be offering in-service training for Altar Servers and Sacristans. Sessions will include one-on-one training; answering questions; plus light refreshments. Sessions will begin immediately following morning Mass.

Questions may be addressed to Terry Biles at 702-672-4933 or bznt@cox.net

Marriage Encounter "We, though many, are still one body in Christ." And we, though husband and wife, became one body in our Sacrament. Like Jesus feeds us with His Body, we need to feed our marriage body so that it grows and is productive. Take time to feed your Sacrament. The next weekend is September 26-28th in the Las Vegas area. To register, call Steve and Terri Sharp at 702-589-0068 or visit Ivloveyourspouse.org. Early registration is highly recommended. For information on Spanish-language weekends, call Javier and Maria Lopez at 702-243-5934 or 206-4270.

Empty Nesters!
Married couple needed!

To provide guidance, direction, love and support to pregnant young women, age 14-22 who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless as a result of their pregnancy. If you are up for a challenge, this may be the job for you!

Room and Board plus salary. For more information:

Contact: Kathleen Miller at Living Grace Home 702-212-6472

Televised Masses for the Homebound and Shut-Ins

The next TV masses will be celebrated on Wednesday, July 2, 2014 at 9:00 am, 9:45 am, 10:30 am, and 11:15

am. Whether you attend one or all of the Masses, your participation is these liturgies is greatly needed to help the homebound feel very much a part of our community. The televised Masses can be viewed every Sunday on the CW network at 7:30 am or online at www.seaslv.org. Please join us!



Faith Formation News



2014-2015 Faith Formation Registrations Now Available.

Registration for children ages 3- grade 8 will be available in the Faith Formation Office and online at sealv.org. The Faith Formation office is open:

Mon.- Thu.: 8:00am -2:00pm

Fri.: Closed

The Faith Formation Office will be closed June 30-July 4 and will reopen on July 7.

The youth ministry office will be closed this week while the Junior High Youth Group participate in the Service Retreat-*Just 5 days*. We will reopen on Monday, June 30th.

Registrations for children in grades 9-12 will be available in the Youth Ministry Office and online at sealy.org

Every year we need Catechists and Catechist Aides for each Faith Formation class. This year we are offering all our programs at each session to better accommodate the whole family, in order to do so we need 80 volunteers to step up as Catechists and Catechist Aides. Are you called to share your faith?

You are a Catechist if you:

- Love God
- Love Children
- Love to talk about Jesus
- Are Baptized in the Catholic Faith.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact the Faith Formation Office at 702 804 8306.

Outreach News



Congratulations to all our St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish students and families who celebrated Graduation this year!

The Outreach Ministry wishes all our students a safe and fun summer and look forward to another great school year.

I know that summer just started; however, it won't be long until we will be gearing up for our annual Back to School Supply Drive. Please keep your eyes and ears open for good sales and let me know what you find.

If you would like to get a jump on shopping, we will be able to accept all your donations during the summer. The following is a list of items needed:

Backpacks, pencils, black, blue & red pens, erasers, crayons (24 box), colored markers (bold & thin), colored pencils, pencil sharpeners, glue sticks, regular glue, scissors, compass & protractors, rulers, pencil boxes and/or pouches for all ages, three ring binders, loose leaf paper (college and wide ruled), dividers, subject notebooks (wire bound and wireless), highlighters, calculators (regular and scientific for high school students) and of course anything you think a child would love to find in their backpack.

If you are unable to shop and would like us to shop for you, please leave your donation in the Poor Box and we will be happy to do the shopping. We always look for the best prices on all our school supplies, therefore, if you know of a supplier that might be able to assist us, please let us know.

God bless you for all you do for families in need. The sacrifices you make for others truly make a difference.



The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ



Following Directions

Jesus asks us to follow Him.
Can you follow these seven directions?

- 1. When you get home, find a person that you love.
- 2. Wait until he or she is sitting down.
- 3. Go over to that person.
- 4. Put your mouth close to his or her ear.
- 5. Whisper, "I love you!"
- 6. Tell him or her a reason why.
- 7. Then give that person a hug.

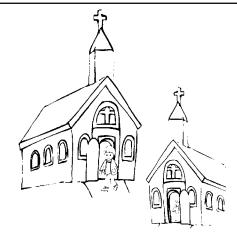
GOD'S WORD FOR CHILDREN!

The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ Year A

The ones to enter heaven are the ones who do the will of God, the Father.

Dt 8:2-3, 14-16 1 Cor 10:16-17 Ps 147:12-15, 19-20 Jn 6:51-58

Directions: Color the child who is entering the church.





Listening to Jesus' words is not enough.

Directions:

Draw several things that you can hear.

Jesus tells us that you must live your life by following the ways of Jesus.



Directions:

Put an X on all the things that you find wrong in this picture.



Stewardship

The Fruits of the Ten Virtues

Because I have experienced it personally, I believe that as people come to own the ten virtues in their lives they experience a deeper falling in love with God in Christ, which naturally brings them to develop a burning desire to share that love with others. With their faith on fire by the power of the Holy Spirit, they strive to be the best disciples and stewards they can be. People's lives are transformed.

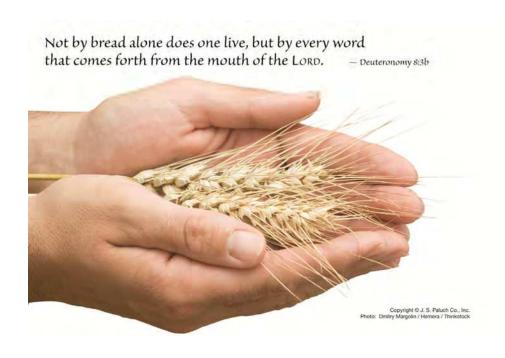
Cultivating the ten virtues of prayer, humility, trust, patience, responsibility, gratitude, generosity, simplicity, mercy and perseverance will naturally lead the Christian Disciple to live a life of stewardship.

Prayer: if we are to grow in holiness and in our relationship

with God, prayer is absolutely essential. Humility: total dependence on God is the hallmark of humility. A Christian steward is filled with humility, not pride. Trust: the Christian steward seeks to trust God more and to trust themselves much less. Patience: "Love is patient" 1 Cor. 13:14. The Christian steward is patient with God, with others, and with themselves. Responsibility: "Well done good and faithful servant" Matthew 25:19. To be responsible is to first understand that we are not our own masters, or the owners of all that we possess. We belong to God, and all that we have has been given to us from our good and gracious God. It is all a gift that is to be used and shared responsibly. Gratitude: Being a steward means living each day in gratitude, not envy.

The secret to happiness is not found in having more but in wanting less. Generosity: for the steward, authentic generosity is born out of an attitude of gratitude. For the Christian steward, giving is motivated by a need to give more than giving to a need. Simplicity: "Live simply so that others may simply live," Blessed Mother Teresa. Adopting a simpler lifestyle enables you to appreciate the abundance you enjoy compared to millions around the world. It also opens the door to living more generously. Mercy: one of the greatest measures of mercy is the ability to forgive. Christian stewards are willing to forgive others and themselves. Perseverance: the stewardship way of life is both joyful and rewarding, while at the same time being challenging and sometimes difficult so the virtue of perseverance is a vital one in the journey. "Mature disciples make a conscious, firm decision, carried out in action, to be followers of Jesus Christ no matter the cost to themselves." (Stewardship A Disciple's Response, 1992 USCCB) It's important to remember in all of this that this is not a quick fix; the transformation does not happen all at once, but over a lifetime. It's a journey, and to quote that great steward, the late Archbishop Thomas Murphy, "It's a journey that is well worth the taking!"

This article is part 12 in a series of 12 reflections on stewardship virtues by ICSC member, Dan Potvin, Director of Stewardship for the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, Canada.



Amen.

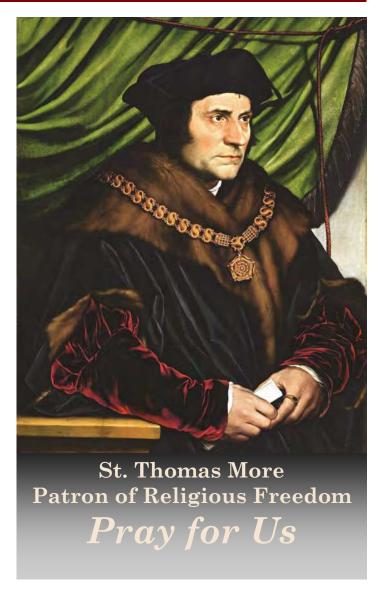
USCCB-Fortnight for Freedom

O God our Creator,

from your provident hand we have received our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. You have called us as your people and given us the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God, and your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society.

We ask you to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith. Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father, a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters gathered in your Church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial withstood and every danger overcome for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after usthis great land will always be "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." We ask this through Christ our Lord.





The Fortnight for Freedom: Freedom to Serve takes place from June 21 to July 4, 2014, a time when our liturgical calendar celebrates a series of great martyrs who remained faithful in the face of persecution by political power—St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher, St. John the Baptist, SS. Peter and Paul, and the First Martyrs of the Church of Rome. The theme of this year's Fortnight will focus on the freedom to serve the poor and vulnerable in accord with human dignity and the Church's teaching. Daily reflections, readings, and additional prayer resources can be found at usccb.org.



Pope Benedict XVI spoke in 2012 about his worry that religious liberty in the United States is being weakened. He called religious liberty the "most cherished of American freedoms." Unfortunately, our most cherished freedom is under threat:

- HHS mandate for sterilization, contraception, and abortion-inducing drugs. The mandate of the Department of Health and Human Services forces religious institutions to facilitate and/or fund a product contrary to their own moral teaching. Further, the federal government tries to define which religious institutions are "religious enough" to merit protection of their religious liberty.
- Catholic foster care and adoption services. Boston, San Francisco, the District of Columbia, and the State of Illinois have driven local Catholic Charities out of the business of providing adoption or foster care services—by revoking their licenses, by ending their government contracts, or both—because those Charities refused to place children with same-sex couples or unmarried opposite-sex couples who cohabit.
- State immigration laws. Several states have passed laws that forbid what they deem as "harboring" of undocumented immigrants—and what the Church deems Christian charity and pastoral care to these immigrants.
- Discrimination against small church congregations. New York City adopted a policy that barred the Bronx Household of Faith and other

- churches from renting public schools on weekends for worship services, even though non-religious groups could rent the same schools for many other uses. Litigation in this case continues.
- Discrimination against Catholic humanitarian services. After years of excellent performance by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) in administering contract services for victims of human trafficking, the federal government changed its contract specifications to require MRS to provide or refer for contraceptive and abortion services in violation of Catholic teaching.
- Christian students on campus. In its over-100-year
 history, the University of California Hastings College
 of Law has denied student organization status to only
 one group, the Christian Legal Society, because it
 required its leaders to be Christian and to abstain
 from sexual activity outside of marriage.

Is our most cherished freedom truly under threat?

Yes, Pope Benedict XVI recognized just two years ago that various attempts to limit the freedom of religion in the U.S. are particularly concerning. The threat to religious freedom is larger than any single case or issue and has its roots in secularism in our culture. The Holy Father has asked for the laity to have courage to counter secularism that would "delegitimize the Church's participation in public debate about the issues which are determining the future of American society."

What can you do to ensure the protection of religious freedom at home and abroad? The U.S. Bishops have called for a Fortnight for Freedom from June 21 to July 4, 2014. Please visit www.fortnight4freedom.org for more information on this important time of prayer, education, and action in support of religious freedom!

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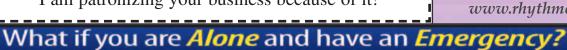
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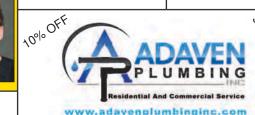
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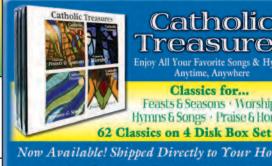
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