A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Third Sunday of Easter

Weekend of April 30/ May 1, 2022

This weekend’s Gospel reading from John enjoys a number of themes not least of which has to do with hearing Christ’s call to live differently but returning to

our “comfort zones.” Even after seeing the risen Lord and receiving his blessing and missionary charge, his disciples go back to what they were doing before Jesus first called them. Instead of continuing Jesus’ ministry, they return to the life they knew. When faced with the choice between embarking on a new way of life or staying where life is familiar and comfortable, they chose the latter. Good stewards know that Christ has called them to open their hearts and live in a different way. How often do we

retreat from the Lord’s call so that we may remain with what is comfortable and familiar?

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Weekend of May 7/8, 2022

Jesus, the “Good Shepherd,” makes a promise in today’s Gospel to those who hear his voice and follow him. He promises them eternal life. Amidst all the other voices that clamor for attention in their daily lives, the voices

that make demands, give advice, seek to persuade or like to gossip, Good stewards listen for the Good Shepherd’s voice. The other voices are legion and we do not always recognize how contrary they are to the voice of the

Good Shepherd. Good stewards know that it takes a compassionate heart, a habit of prayer, a hunger for the Eucharist and a love of neighbor for them to truly hear the voice of the Good Shepherd. What might we do in our daily lives to prepare us to more authentically hear the voice of the Good Shepherd?

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Weekend of May 14/15, 2022

In today’s Gospel Jesus makes a bold and clear statement to his disciples. “I give you a new commandment: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should

love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” We are called to love others as a sign of our discipleship in Jesus Christ. That includes even those “others” we might prefer to forget. We are so often tempted to draw lines between those who we will love and those who we consider not worthy of our love. This week take time to reflect on Jesus’ love command. How often do we heed Jesus’ love command? What change in our lives must take place in order for us to obey this command?

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Weekend of May 21/22, 2022

In today’s Gospel we witness the last evening Jesus

spends with his disciples before his death. He has already made it clear that his followers will show their love for him by serving others. To live that kind of love, they will need the active presence of God in their midst. Jesus

tells his disciples that he and his Father will come and make their home with them. He also tells them that the Holy Spirit will be among them to teach them and

remind them of all that Jesus had taught. Good stewards recognize that God is in their midst and that the Holy Spirit is guiding them. How often do we acknowledge God’s presence in our lives? How often do we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us?

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

May 26 or Weekend of May 28/29 2022

Today we celebrate the feast of the Ascension of our

Lord, a feast which, in part, celebrates the confidence

he placed in his close followers to continue his ministry. In the Gospel reading Jesus reminds his followers of

the purpose of his mission, and commissions them to continue his work by proclaiming his word and by living courageously that which they preached. He also promises them the Holy Spirit who he said would strengthen them for the task ahead. As stewards of Jesus’ life and ministry,

a good question for us to reflect on this week might be this: Has Christ’s confidence in the quality of our own witness been well placed?

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Weekend of May 28/ 29 2022

*(For those dioceses that celebrate the Ascension of the Lord on Thursday, May 26 and the Seventh Sunday of Easter this weekend)*

In today’s first reading we hear the story of Saint Stephen, proclaiming God’s word in the “public square” and suffering martyrdom by being stoned to death. At the scene were those who supported Stephen, those who became jealous and angry, and those who simply stood by and did nothing. Sometimes it seems like those who exercise good stewardship of the Gospel embark on

a terribly lonely journey, with a destination that looks rather ominous. It certainly was for Stephen. But he lived and died with an incredible faith. Do we mock those who proclaim God’s word? Do we turn a blind eye to those suffering persecution today? Or do we have the courage to preach the Gospel with our lives?