

Stewardship in Action at St. Bernard

April 2015

Stewardship:
An
Ongoing
Commitment



PARISH YOUTH ATTEND CONFIRMATION NIGHT

On Tuesday, February 24th, approximately 75 6th graders attended the Stewardship Council's Annual Confirmation Night to learn about the role of stewardship as well as identify opportunities to become active stewards at St. Bernard.

As part of their Confirmation preparation, our young parishioners are expected to perform acts of service in the parish as well as the community. The evening's program featured informal presentations by the Stewardship Council, Christian Service Commission, Samaritan Homeless Interim Program (SHIP) and Guatemala Ministry - different parish ministries that welcome service by the young people of our parish. The students came away energized with new possibilities of ways to become better stewards and fulfill their Confirmation service requirement.

Stewardship Council members Vince Riello, Karen Brophy and Deacon Gerry Sims (L-R) discuss ways to serve God and others with 6th graders at Confirmation Night



THIS IS THE TIME

If ever there was a time to touch the human heart, now is the time. With the continuing struggles in today's world, people need Christ and the comfort and protection of his Lordship more than ever.

As you bring your offerings to Mass, behold the Lamb of God offering himself up for you. He gave his all. He died for you and for all. What offering can you bring that is worthy of such matchless love and such obedient trust?

Present your gifts to Christ at Mass and offer him the allegiance of your heart once again.



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EARTH DAY: CREATION CARE, AND STEWARDSHIP

Psalm 24 begins, “The earth is the Lord’s and all it holds, the world, and those who live there.” This claim has great implications for our understanding and interaction with the earth and all of creation. Sometimes when we think about stewardship, we only think about money. In his book ***Shalom Church: The Body of Christ as Ministering Community***, Craig Nesson writes that, “Contrary to prevailing stereotypes, stewardship is not only about money. Instead stewardship has to do with responding to God’s generosity by caring for all God has entrusted to us”.

As I think about the ways I care for all that God has entrusted to me, a few initial thoughts come to mind:

- My wife Allison and I have a pet cat named Buddy. We care for Buddy as a part of our family.
- We own one car.
- We try to recycle as much as we can.
- We turn off the water while we brush our teeth.

I could go on, but these are a few examples of how we are trying to care for all God has entrusted to us. Some aspects of creation care are probably easier for young adults than others. For example, using less transportation (like having one car) or public transportation may be a financial necessity. Reducing our use of technology and resulting consumption of electricity may be a harder commitment to make. Millennials and young adults have grown up with computers, laptops, television, cell phones, etc. on which we are largely dependent for work, livelihood and entertainment. Do we think about how this effects our carbon footprint because of the electricity used to power them?

On a larger scale, because of the issues of natural resource usage and climate change, Millennials wonder what kind of earth is they are inheriting. What are the implications, for example, of the great water emergencies in California on food supply sustainability, the provision of life, etc. and our life and consumer choices related to them?

During April, we ask that you try to reflect about creation and the earth in observation of Earth Day.

ADAPTED FROM THE ECUMENICAL STEWARDSHIP CENTER BY
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Interested in learning more about the Stewardship Council?

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