

## Stewardship in Action at St. Bernard



### WELCOME BACK!

Parishioners:

It's hard to believe that Fall is here! The Stewardship Council hopes that you enjoyed the summer and spent some relaxing time with your family and friends.

Many ministries take a hiatus in the summer time and are now gearing up for a new year of ministry activities. It is the ongoing mission of the Stewardship Council to *"Bring people to live a life of Stewardship."* Our objective as a Council is to increase parishioner engagement through *TIME, TALENT* and *TREASURE* activities. As the parish embarks upon the *Discovering Christ* program to promote evangelization and renewal in the parish, the Stewardship Council is excited to support and encourage this exciting program. We believe that it will re-engage both the faithful Catholic and the disengaged Catholic with the Gospel. Now is a great time to begin to prayerfully reflect on how you can get involved in ministry.

Over the coming weeks and months, the Stewardship Council will do its part to bring visibility and promote opportunities for you to get involved. Stay tuned to this newsletter for upcoming activities.

The Council is excited to serve you.

Yours in Christ,

Mark Dransfield

### STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mark Dransfield, Chairperson  
Deacon Gerry Sims  
Camille Bene  
Karen Brophy  
Liz Dransfield  
Joanne Fabiano  
Fran Lim  
Michael Macchiarola  
Nancy Fritz Mombay  
Russell Nesbitt  
Steve Ossi  
Vince Riello  
Doreen Sekora  
Gemma Thompson

### A QUIET PLACE

I daily seek a quiet place  
That's far from trouble and strife,  
Where I can piece together all  
The puzzles of my life.  
It's there, away from TV and books,  
And far from the telephone,  
That I can fellowship with God,  
Just He and I alone.  
And there God pours His balm of love  
Into the life I live,  
And there I find a peace and joy,  
That only He can give.  
I will not fear the circumstance  
I face from day to day,  
For daily, in my quiet place,  
I'm learning how to pray.

—Glenda Fulton Davis



# STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

**SiA (Stewardship in Action)** – A monthly insert in the parish bulletin that highlights Stewardship-related news stories, profiles of ministries and individuals and upcoming events sponsored by the Stewardship Council.

**Stewardship Sunday** – Usually, held on the third Sunday of the month. Following the 10:30am mass, a social (“Donut Sunday”) is held in the parish cafeteria that affords the parish community the opportunity to network, socialize and learn about parish activities.

**Stewardship Tree** – As in years past, the Stewardship Tree will be positioned in the church narthex during the Advent and Lenten seasons. Leaves hang from the tree denoting service opportunities. This is a great opportunity to get involved in a ministry’s work with only a small time commitment.



## WHAT IS PEACE?

What is peace? Probably most people would answer that it is the state which comes about when there is no war. When war ends, peace begins. That kind of peace concerns us deeply these days. It deserves our best attention. When we look at the Old Testament, we find a rather different and a richer meaning. The Hebrew word *Shalom* comes from a root which means “fullness, perfection.” In the beautiful promise in Isaiah 26:3, “*thou dost keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee,*” “perfect peace” in Hebrew is just the word “peace” twice repeated. If we take account of the root meaning of the word, we find that peace, in the Biblical sense of the word, may be defined as “the state of things which comes about when God’s will is being done.”

Peace is that state of things which exists when God’s will is being done. And where God’s will is not being done, there strife is found. We are born to be the children of God, but in some cases it may seem we have become the enemies of God. Sometimes it seems as though we are at war within ourselves. We know what is good and what is bad, yet often, even when we long to do what is right, we find that instead we do the evil which we hate. The message of the Gospel is that God has taken action in this world of disorder, to bring it back to its true and normal state. Jesus is the One in whom the will of God will perfectly be done; through Him the world will be brought back to the way of peace from which it has strayed. Later, when the disciples were sent out to preach, they were told to say on entering a house, “Peace to this house.” That was not a polite greeting, but the offer of the gift of peace (salvation) to those in the house.

Where shall we find peace?

Peace is in Christ. “*For He is our peace*” (Ephesians 2:14). Peace is that state of things which exist when God’s will is being done in your life.



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***Interested in learning more about the Stewardship Council?***

Please contact Mark Dransfield (mlrek@optonline.net or by calling 908-526-6649)