



## SUMMER VACATION FROM MASS?

Summer is upon us. In parish life this means major sacraments have taken place, CCE classes are finished and those vacations are finally at hand. Unfortunately summer also means the inevitable decline in mass attendance.

### A few tips to encourage mass attendance during summer:

- Have the pastor make an announcement before and during summer that missing mass is a sin which requires confession before consuming the Eucharist
- Keep the parish calendar full. Host adult bible study, vacation bible school for kids, Jamaicas, and publicize local family friendly events such as the Diocesan Family Fest this June. Find [information here](#).
- Build an atmosphere of Stewardship. A tight-knit community will find it difficult to stray.

Speaking of a community of Stewardship...How will you **welcome visitors to your parish during the summer?** Here are a few tips:

- If you are a greeter, extend an extra handshake and smile to a new visitor. Pass along something unique about your parish that they will cherish throughout their vacation and take to their home parish.
- Sit in a new seat during the summer. Avoiding that awkward "you're sitting in my seat" moment with visitors.
- Help your parish cultivate a virtue of hospitality at Mass. Avoid parish business at mass, welcome visitors to donuts or the meal following the mass and be a resource. Whether it's sharing parish amenities *don't miss our Chapel with the new stained glass* or local amenities *"The best pancakes are at Susie's Diner"* share the Joy of Christ in every encounter!



*Enjoy the experience of a local church while on vacation.*

Stewardship Coordinator Rachel Martinez visited Our Lady of Fatima Church in Jamaica in 2013.

## RESOLVING CHURCH CONFLICT



One of the biggest challenges we face as good stewards is interacting with difficult people in our church communities. We've all encountered people who are demanding, demeaning, annoying, angry, hurt, confused, complaining, or unwilling to change. Why do they act this way? To answer this question and lead us to a disciples response in dealing with difficult people, the Department of Stewardship and Development is offering a **FREE** 60 minute webinar Tuesday, June 10th at 1:00 p.m. We'll take a closer look at how deal with difficult people and resolve church conflicts without losing our patience or our spiritual focus.

This webinar is presented by Lorene Duquin, speaker and author. Duquin has been a speaker on previous webinars, *Stewardship and Evangelization*, *Gift Discernment* and most recently in March, *Working through Change: How to Help Parishioners through Transition*. You can find articles and purchase books and pamphlets written by Duquin at OSV.com.

Each webinar is normally \$59.00 per parish (*that's over \$400 a year*) But the Office of Stewardship and Development has paid your way! This webinar series is **FREE TO YOU**. Please take advantage of the investment we have made in your parish. These esteemed presenters provide quality education at costs much larger than this.

### To register visit

<https://student.gototraining.com/r/1538965888499569664>

insert **June** when prompted for the discount code.

<p><b>Price</b> \$129.00 USD per registrant</p> <p><i>June</i></p>	<p>Apply Discount Code</p>
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You will receive an e-mail confirmation from Tracy Stewart with the link you will use to join the webinar on Tuesday June 10th

**SAVE THIS E-MAIL.** Your parish can watch the webinar from the same computer, or you can register on different computers and watch in the comfort of your own office or home!

All 2014 webinars will be the second Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. Set aside this date and time for the benefit of your parish and personal stewardship journey.

## THE DAYS OF “COMFORTABLE CATHOLICISM” ARE OVER

Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley of Boston served as keynote speaker at the 10th annual National Catholic Prayer Breakfast in Washington DC. Cardinal O’Malley called for immigration reform for Central and Latin American immigrants saying “They are not evil invaders but people seeking to feed and clothe their families in safety, much like the immigrants from Ireland, Italy, Germany and Poland.”

Our past evangelization missions were to Papua New Guinea highlands, but Cardinal O’Malley pointed out past that now is the United States and Western Europe that needs evangelizing. These societies live “in the residue of Christian culture” creating a challenge to make people there “disciples and disciple-makers”. A true call to stewardship.

Opening speaker Robert P. George, the McCormick professor of jurisprudence at Princeton University and chair of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom said the days of “socially acceptable Christianity” and “comfortable Catholicism” are over. We should ask ourselves “Am I ashamed of the Gospel?”

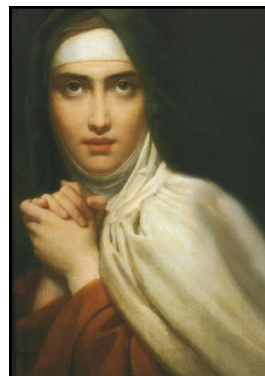
As stewards of the Gospel we must “Go make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). However, our very nation’s society pressures us to keep to ourselves and not share the Gospel. Society describes Gospel teachings, and therefore Catholicism, as out of date, insensitive, bigoted and hateful. Many Catholics, especially young Catholics, do not want to associate themselves with such definitions. The ultimatum is either conform to secular views or say nothing.

According to George those who witness the Gospel are marked men and women, exposed to scorn and reproach. There are actual heavy costs of discipleship. Catholics are finding themselves discriminated against, losing jobs, and missing out on due recognition and job advancement. George points out it “may even cost one treasure friendships” and “produce familial discord and even the alienation of family members.”

George likened such changing circumstances to the difference between Palm Sunday and Good Friday. “The memory of Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem has faded. ... The love affair with Jesus and his Gospel and his church is over. Elite sectors of the cultures of Europe and the Americas no longer welcome his message,” he said. “Friday has come.”

What is a steward to do? A good steward makes a return to the Lord with increase. When we share Jesus with others are we sharing a Palm Sunday savior or a beaten lamb we crucified? As stewards God entrusts us to cultivate and share His many gifts. This includes the Gospels. Stewards are evangelizers who knock on doors and shout from rooftops their love of the Gospel. How convenient Pope Francis’ first Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* *The Joy of the Gospels* rekindles our love affair with Jesus.

This time of turmoil in our country is not a time to wait it out. As the past Easter season revealed, Christ has risen. He is not longer walking this earth. We have been saved, we must bring the Savior to those who’ve lost Him.



St. Theresa of Avila wrote “*Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks Compassion on this world, Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good, Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, Yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now but yours, No hands, no feet on earth but yours, Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.*”

Despite claims that Catholics are “on the wrong side of history” on such issues, George said, “history is not God. God is God. History is not our judge. God is our judge.” Catholic News Services [May 13–2014](#)

Did you miss last month’s webinar? Watch recording here: <http://bit.ly/OntheJobStewardship>

### Upcoming Webinars

**J** **The Ask: Inviting Parishioners to Deeper Spirituality through the Stewardship of Treasure**  
**U** July 8 - 1 p.m.



**A** **Stewardship of Spirituality: Practical ideas**  
**U** August 8 - 1:00 p.m.

**S** **Basic Steps for Developing a Parish Strategic Plan**  
**E** September 13 - 1:00 p.m.

**O** **Hospitality as a Key to Stewardship**  
**C** October 10 - 1:00 p.m.

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