

Core Values of Stewardship:

<p>Identity</p>	<p>We are created by God for God, to love and serve Him in this world and to be happy with Him in the next. We are not our own. We belong to God. If we are not our own, then the things we have are not our own either. We really do not own them. We steward them. God lets us have these things and asks us to be good stewards, to manage them for God and for His purposes. Even our bodies and our talents are not our own. They, too, belong to God. He asks us to steward them as we steward every other thing in our lives.</p>
<p>Gratitude</p>	<p>God has given us everything – our very life, our faith, our relationships, our intellect and will, our material possessions, the beauty of nature, and more. Everything is God’s gift. Gratitude fills our heart as we realize the wisdom and forethought God has in giving us what we need. If we don’t have something, perhaps we don’t really need it. What we do have is shared with us by God and we appreciate his trust in us to be stewards of the good things of life. Our gratitude, our thanks is our way of responding to God’s love. As gratitude grows we begin to focus more on all the gifts we have instead of what we don’t have. Finally, gratitude expresses itself in action. We give our time, talent and treasure in thanksgiving for all God has given us.</p>
<p>Trust</p>	<p>Since everything we have is from God, it is God who is in charge of our lives, not us. Trust allows us to let go of what seemingly is in our control and to “let God” do what He is already doing for us. Thus the saying, “Let go and let God.” We accept that God is in control and we trust that God will provide for us. He will give us everything we need, as expressed in 2 Corinthians 9:8: “Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work.” By the same token, as stewards we need to be trustworthy. In 1 Corinthians 4:1-2, St. Paul says, “Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God’s mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they should be found trustworthy.”</p>
<p>Love</p>	<p>God loved us first. He created us in His image, then redeemed us with His only Son and sent us His Holy Spirit to make us holy. In response to God’s love, we give Him our love, and we give thanks as in 1 Chronicles 16:34: “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his kindness endures forever.” In 1 Corinthians 13:13, St. Paul said, “So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” Love is expressed in giving. We show our love by giving, by cheerfully committing a portion of God’s gifts entrusted to us to God’s work and God’s people.</p>

From: *The Spirituality of Stewardship* by Father Andrew Kemberling, in *Making Stewardship a Way of Life*, Andrew Kemberling and Mila Glodava, Our Sunday Visitor, Inc., Huntington, IN. 2009.

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

September 2013

St. Cecilia Church
Rev. James L. Secora, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

Blessed Junípero Serra, O.F.M.

The Year of Faith saint for September is Blessed Junípero Serra.

Not content with being an acclaimed Franciscan preacher in Spain, Blessed Junípero left everything behind to become a missionary. He landed in Vera Cruz, Mexico and walked 250 miles to Mexico City despite injury and illness. He founded 21 missions and taught the Native Americans trades, from farming to crafting. He also established the foundation for protections for the Native Americans and brought them the gift of faith.



"God bless you"

When you sneeze, think of Pope St. Gregory, the Great. In 590AD, the bubonic plague was spreading to Rome. To combat the disease, the pope requested unceasing prayer. "God bless you!" in response to a sneeze was part of that effort.

We are all needed in order to build this Temple. No one is secondary ... We are all equal in the eyes of God." Pope Francis I

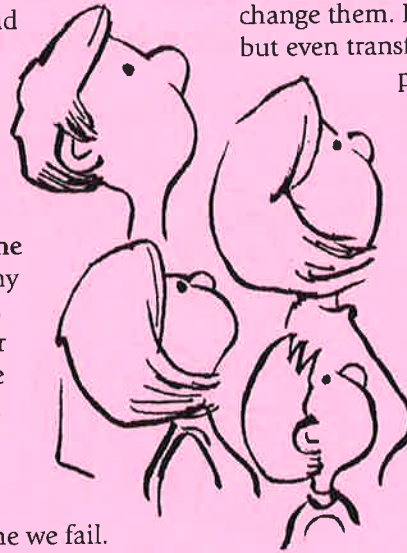


Do you love God or fear God more?

Is your relationship with God dominated by guilt and fear, or by love? Do you worry how he thinks of you and dread praying to him? Yet Jesus taught us to always meet God joyfully in prayer and worship and to be confident of his love.

Don't fear God in the wrong way. It is healthy to be in awe of God as our creator and creator of the universe. But we should never be afraid of God becoming angry every time we make a mistake or punishing us every time we fail.

"But you, our God, are good and true, slow to anger, and governing all with mercy" (Wisdom 15:1). God appreciates honest effort.



Let God help you change. Most of us have areas in our lives that need improvement. If we ask, God will change them. It isn't always pleasant but even transforming change is possible when we allow God to work in our lives.

Don't carry guilt.

The problem with guilt is that it can keep us from God. Instead, use it to take responsibility for sins, make amends, and start fresh – then let the guilt go. Catholics are blessed to have access to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Use it often so you can meet God joyfully in love and peace which is what he prefers.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do we say the "Fatima Prayer?"

When our Blessed Mother appeared to the children at Fatima in 1917, she asked them to add this prayer after each decade of the Rosary: "Oh, my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fire of hell. Lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who have



most need of Thy mercy." While we all need God's mercy, those who have abandoned their faith, lead mortally sinful lives, or reject the teachings of the Church need prayers for conversion and repentance.

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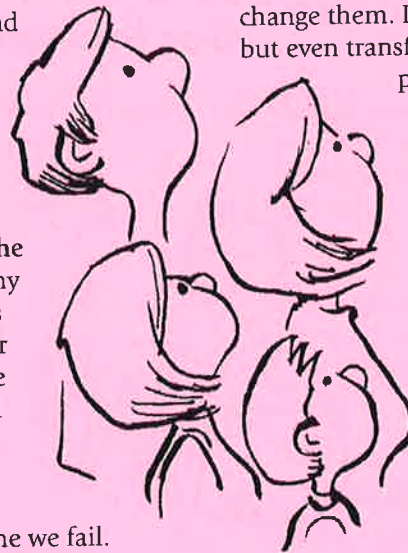
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TOP TEN REASONS TO BE CATHOLIC

SUBMITTED BY THE FAITHFUL OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF DUBUQUE

1



THE EUCHARIST

2



SACRAMENTS

3



COMMUNITY

4



APOSTOLIC TRADITION

5



MARY, OUR BLESSED MOTHER

6



SCRIPTURE & TRADITION

7



CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

8



PRAYER & DEVOTIONS

9



THE SAINTS

10



UNIVERSAL CHURCH

The Archdiocese of Dubuque's Top Ten Reasons to be Catholic!

We have our Top Ten Reasons to be Catholic, and they are great! Over one hundred parishes/schools/organizations of the Archdiocese of Dubuque submitted lists of their Top Ten. These lists were compiled into one archdiocesan list.

10. Universal Church: The faithful of our archdiocese appreciate belonging to a universal church. We are, of course, Catholic, which means universal. Yet the people of God described universal in a variety of ways. Some simply wrote "worldwide," while others expressed the joy of attending Mass in any country, in any language—knowing it is the same liturgical celebration. Some described universal as the diversity and colorfulness of the expressions of our faith. Others noted that all are welcomed to the Catholic Church, no matter one's race, language, culture, country, or economic status.

9. Saints: We love the saints! The Church teaches us that we are all saints; however, She has raised up for us specific individuals throughout our history to be models and guides for us. Learning of these special saints inspires us as Catholics and connects us to all the faithful who have gone before us.

8. Prayers & Devotions: As Catholics we are a spiritually diverse group of people within the one universal Church. We cherish these spiritual practices that lead us closer to God and we allow people to live out of or into whichever practice draws them closer to Jesus.

7. Catholic Social Teaching: We believe our faith should lead to justice and service. Catholic Social Teaching gives us the foundation for taking Christ's presence into the world. We advocate strongly for the weak and most vulnerable because of the sacredness and dignity of the human person as created in the image and likeness of God.

6. Sacred Teaching, Scripture & Tradition: The faithful of the Archdiocese of Dubuque value the "strong, sacred teachings" of the Catholic Church, firmly rooted in Scripture and Tradition. These ground our faith and are the source of "lifelong formation" and "continuous learning."

5. Blessed Mother, Mary: Catholics have a great affection for Mary and hold her deeply in our hearts. We honor Mary as the "Theotokos" (Mother of God) and as Jesus' first disciple. Many of us ask Mary to intercede for us, knowing Jesus answered Mary's request at the wedding feast at Cana.

4. Apostolic Succession: The handing on of the teaching, preaching and authority of the faith which Jesus taught to the Apostles & their successors through the laying on of hands. We value this two thousand year history and the continuous leadership from the time of Jesus to our present Holy Father, Pope Francis.

3. Community: Though we live in an individualistic society, Catholics appreciate their communal faith. We are a pilgrim people who journey together in our faith and practice. As Catholics, faith is more than Jesus and me—it is Jesus and we! Our community consists of those who are baptized into the one Body of Christ. As Catholics, we gather as brothers and sisters of the Lord around the altar, around the family dinner table, and in service around the community meal. We know we're in this together!

2. Sacraments: We benefit from the work of Christ through the sacraments, signs that he instituted and ordained for the sanctification of humanity and for building up the Body of Christ, the Church. Catholics believe God continues to be present in our world in a special way through the sacraments.

1. Eucharist: The Eucharist is our Number ONE reason for being Catholic! We proclaim that the Eucharist is the "source and summit" of our faith. We believe Jesus is fully with us and he feeds, forms, strengthens, and sends us as the one Body of Christ.