


Social Justice

Good Samaritan Fund Recipients

MONTHLY DONATIONS

- ◆ Butterfly Freedom House 
- ◆ Emergency Residence Project
- ◆ Free Medical Clinic
- ◆ Food at First
- ◆ Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance
- ◆ Home for Awhile
- ◆ Individual Assistance
- ◆ Matthew 25 House
- ◆ MICA Food Pantry Collection/
Transportation (cost of getting food
from Food Bank of Iowa)
- ◆ Story County Dental Clinic

Prayer for Social Justice

Lord Jesus, Carpenter and King, Supreme Sovereign of all men, look with tender mercy upon the multitudes of our day who bear the indignities of injustice everywhere. Raise up leaders in every land dedicated to Your standards of order, equity, and justice. Grant unto us, Lord Jesus, the grace to be worthy members of Your Mystical Body, laboring unceasingly to fulfill our vocation in the social apostolate of Your Church. Sharpen our intellects to pierce the pettiness of prejudice; to perceive the beauty of true human brotherhood. Guide our minds to a meaningful understanding of the problems of the poor, of the oppressed, of the unemployed, of all in need of assistance anywhere. Guide our hearts against the subtle lure of earthly things and undue regard for those who possess them. May we hunger and thirst after justice always.

Amen

CATHOLIC ORGANIZATIONS

- . Appalachia Committee
- . Birthright
- . Catholic Charities
- . Operation Rice Bowl
- . Prison Ministry
- . St. Cecilia Youth Ministries

Social Justice Contacts

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET -
1-800-842-2243 **STC Contact:**
Cynthia Shriver 292-6584

AMOS STC - Contact: Mary Ross
232-6232

APPALACHIA WAREHOUSE -
2019 Pullman Street, Ames. **STC**
Contact: Lynn Franco 232-0898

BIRTHRIGHT OF AMES -
108 Hayward Ave., Suite 202, Ames
515-292-8414. **STC Contact:**
Kathy Ridnour 232-1697

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF
THE AMERICAS - STC Contact:
Sharon Jenkins 233-2570

EMERGENCY RESIDENCE
PROJECT - STC Contact:
Julie Haas 232-7138

FOOD AT FIRST - 516 Kellogg
Ave., Ames. 515-344-4357 **STC**
Contact: Doreen Berg 956-3414

GABRIEL PROJECT- STC
Contact: Barb Moore 515-337-1551

GOOD NEIGHBOR EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE, INC. - 3206 S. Duff,
Ames 515-296-1449. **STC Contact:**
Doreen Berg 956-3414

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF
CENTRAL IOWA - 515-232-8815.
STC Contact: Alan Christy 231-8099

MEALS ON WHEELS (Homeward)
- 1114 S. Duff, Ames. **STC Contact:**
Cathy Kaspar 233-0517

OPERATION RICE BOWL - STC
Contact: Cynthia Shriver 292-6584

PRISON MINISTRY - STC Contact:
Dave Temple 232-9271

SAINT CECILIA SOCIAL JUS-
TICE COMMITTEE. STC Contact:
Mary Ross 232-5080

The Social Justice Committee meets
on the third Monday of each month at
7:00 p.m. in the Sunroom. Everyone
is welcome to attend.

OTHER DONATIONS

- ACCESS
- Ames Ecumenical Housing Council
- AMOS
- Alliance for the Mentally Ill
- Bethesda Food Pantry
- Boys and Girls Club
- Christmas Giving Tree
- Friendship Ark Homes
- Habitat for Humanity of Central Iowa
- Heartland Senior Services
- Informed Choice of Iowa/Ames Fund
- Nevada Community Cupboard
- United Way Backpack Program
- Youth & Shelter Services Stork's Nest



INTERNATIONAL

- Alaska-Sudan Medical Project—Sudan Wells
- FINCA
- Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Anse Rouge, Haiti
(support for teachers & students/donations of sup-
plies)
- Save the Rain
- St. Thomas Aquinas Honduran Ministry





Can You Hear Jesus' Words of Comfort?

In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus tells his followers, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

- ♥ Do you feel weary?
- ♥ Does the yoke of life seem too difficult for you to carry alone?
- ♥ Are your burdens too much to bear?

God has called some people within our midst to Stephen Ministry. These people are trained and supported in walking with others through difficult times in their lives.

Could you benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister?

Contact one of the SM leadership team:
Jean Kuhl 450-5715, Rich Lee 708-0881,
Lois Lehmkuhl 450-1200, Jerry Portis 231-2724
Anne Schmitt 291-8257 or Deacon Alan 231-8099

Stephen Ministers: The After People

People often ask, "What exactly is a Stephen Minister?" One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the *After People*.

Stephen Ministers are there:

- ... *after* the phone call you hoped you'd never get.
- ... *after* the divorce papers are served and the bottom falls out of your life.
- ... *after* the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.
- ... *after* the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do."
- ... *after* the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, "Welcome to your new home."
- ... *after* the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.
- ... *after* the gavel goes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
- ... *after* the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
- ... *after* you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
- ... *after* your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministry Leadership Team
Jean Kuhl 450-5715, Rich Lee 708-0881
Lois Lehmkuhl 450-1200, Jerry Portis 231-2724.
Anne Schmitt 291-8257, Deacon Alan 231-8099

Stephen Ministers are the "After People." They are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long *after* as needed.

www.stephenministries.org

LENTEN FORMATION OFFERINGS 2014



LENTEN PILGRIMAGE

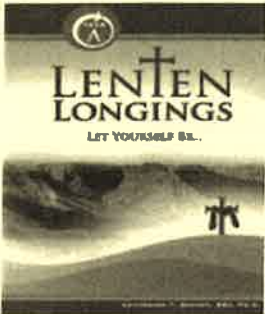
This year's Lenten Pilgrimage will take place Monday, March 17. We plan to visit Fr. Jim's home parish in Ft. Atkinson and the historic Churches of St. Luke in St. Lucas and St. Wenceslaus in Spillville. Seats are limited on the bus. Price to be determined. Please call the parish office to reserve a seat at 233-3092.



The Grand Adventure: A New Call to Grandparenting Program Book

The Grand Adventure: A New Call to Grandparenting is a six-Meeting Grandparenting Program written by Deacon Gary and Kay Aitchison, past Executive Directors and current International CFM Presidents. The Grand Adventure was created in response to an observed need in today's society to make better use of the grandparenting connection in family life..

Renew yourself this Lent with *Lenten Longings*.

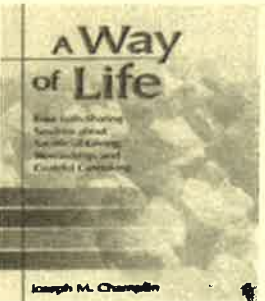


Lent invites us to a time of prayer, reflection, and conversion. Make a six-week retreat by exploring the Sunday readings of Lent. Simple language and everyday metaphors steep you in the season's promptings to surrender self, work for justice, and deepen prayer life. *Let Yourself be ...- Year A:* encourages participants to embrace the teaching of Christ that authentic loving involves self-surrender.

Lenten Longings is well suited for seasonal groups, small Christian communities, and individual reflection. Song suggestions, prayers, and action responses included. By Catherine T. Nerney, S.S.J., Ph.D.

Based on the three-year cycle of the *Lectionary*, each book contains six sessions corresponding to the six weeks of Lent and presents themes drawn from the year's Lenten readings. *Let Yourself Be—Year A* encourages participants to embrace the teaching of Christ that authentic loving involves self-surrender.

As Christians we seek to observe a triple approach to stewardship in our daily lives: we believe that everything comes from God; we express in our hearts and with words our gratitude for these gifts; and we share a portion of these blessings—time, talent, and treasures—with others to make this a better world and to build up the church. *A Way of Life* contains four faith-sharing sessions designed to help participants understand this approach and apply it personally.



As a way of life, sacrificial giving, stewardship, or grateful caretaking does demand a frequent and on-going conversion of the heart. Each session includes biblical passages and reflective prayer, brief instructions and fundamental concepts, extended sharing and group discussions designed to foster this conversion. During the days after each session participants are encouraged to ponder the experience and change their lives accordingly.

A Way of Life includes four sessions: "Session 1: A Theology of Grateful Giving," "Session 2: Discerning My Gifts," "Session 3: Sharing My Time and Talent," and "Session 4: Taking A Step Toward Tithing My Treasure." Also included are "Guidelines for These Sessions," "The Plan for Each Session," "Resource Materials," "Time and Talent Sample Forms," and "Music."

Fr. Joseph M. Champlin is the rector at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Syracuse, New York.



Prayer and Gratitude: Two Virtues of the Christian Steward

This is the second in a 12-part series of spiritual reflections by ICSC member, Dan Potvin, on a renewed vision for stewardship formation in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, Canada. Dan is the Director of Stewardship for the Archdiocese of Winnipeg.



Virtues are something we possess. They form a part of who we are and grow when we develop good patterns of behavior we call habits. We are, and become, what we repeatedly do. This is especially important for those who desire to enter into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

Making a habit of praying on a daily basis is essential to cultivating a more intimate relationship with the Lord. And the amount of time we give back to the Lord each day in prayer reveals the extent of our gratitude for God's gift of those 24 hours.

A daily habit of prayer leads us to an acute awareness of God's blessings in our lives and how we are called to use these blessings, gifts graciously bestowed upon us, in a manner that gives glory to God. There is no better way to discern how God wants us to steward our gifts than through prayer.

Making a habit of praying on a daily basis is essential to cultivating a more intimate relationship with the Lord.

There is something else that happens in prayer – because we are awakened to just how generous our God is we naturally grow in the stewardship virtue of gratitude. Whenever I facilitate a parish retreat or mission on Christian stewardship, I always engage the participants in a discussion around the two stewardship virtues of prayer and gratitude. I ask about which of these two stewardship virtues the group considers most important. The ensuing discussion is always fruitful.

The better our life of prayer, the greater our sense of gratitude becomes. And as we grow in gratitude, we are motivated to spend more time in prayer, giving thanks to God. So prayer and gratitude are both equally important as stewardship virtues. In fact, St. Paul put the two together in his letter to the Philippians: "Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything, with grateful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God" (Phil. 4:6). Gratitude leads to a greater prayer life and prayer leads to a greater attitude of gratitude.

How do you pray? When and how often do you pray? Do you pray with a grateful heart? These are good stewardship questions. Moreover, they remind us that virtues are developed by learning good habits. By making a habit of cultivating our prayer life and developing a deeper sense of gratitude we will naturally grow in faith and become the best possible stewards and disciples that God wishes us to be.