A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

# Fourth Sunday of Easter Weekend of May 6/7, 2017

Saint Peter plays a prominent leadership role in the first two readings, urging his listeners to be baptized and accept the gift of the Holy Spirit; and encouraging them to follow in the footsteps of Christ. We have just renewed our baptismal promises at Easter and the Holy Spirit dwells in us in a spe- cial way. Are we good stewards of those baptismal vows?

Have we renewed our commitment to follow in Jesus’ footsteps? Have we opened our hearts to discern the will of God in our lives? Take some time to reflect on the impor- tance of our baptismal renewal and our lives as disciples of the Lord.

# Fifth Sunday of Easter Weekend of May 13/14, 2017

In the reading from the Acts of the Apostles we see how the first community of Christians gathered together to discern and resolve how to care for each others’ needs. As good stewards of the sisters and brothers who gathered around the Eucharistic table, the community of faith selected those among them who were to ensure that no one was neglect- ed. How do we resolve to serve the needs of our parish family? How do we ensure that those who might be per- ceived to be the least of our brothers and sisters are not left alone and neglected?

# Sixth Sunday of Easter Weekend of May 20/21, 2017

Philip understood very well Jesus’ words: “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” We learn of Philip’s de- votion to prayer, evangelizing and healing in the region of Samaria; made up of communities that would not be very receptive to the followers of Jesus. Philip is a model stew- ard, living his discipleship day by day in the Lord without being obstructed by feelings of what cost his actions might

entail. Good stewards summon the courage to proclaim the Lord and to serve Him by ministering to others. As an Easter people, eager to rejoice in the Lord, it is important to reflect on how we are living out our own commitment to discipleship.

# Solemnity of the Lord’s Ascension

## *(Whenever it is celebrated in your diocese)*

In today’s Gospel, Jesus charges his followers to “make disciples of all nations.” What exactly is going on here? What is this Great Commission anyway? Good stewards know they are directed to share what they exercise stew- ardship over: their life of faith in Christ Jesus. They know Jesus didn’t direct them to go to church and to keep quiet about it; or to go out into the neighborhood, workplace or marketplace and just be nice. Christ’s Good News is meant to be shared. Many people in our communities don’t know about Jesus Christ. Does that bother us? Do we care? Do we realize we are supposed to do something about it?

# Seventh Sunday of Easter

## *(If the Solemnity of the Lord’s Ascension is celebrated by your diocese on Thursday, May 25, 2017)*

**Weekend of May 27/28, 2017**

In today’s second reading, we hear it proclaimed that we are blessed if we share in the sufferings of Christ. What then does it mean to “share in His sufferings” in this con- text? Most of us do not live in a part of the world where we could be killed for being a follower of Jesus. But we could face or “suffer” mockery, ridicule and disapproval from others. Far too often, and for various reasons, those who profess faith in Christ act as though they are ashamed of him. But to act ashamed is the same as a denial. Stew- ards of the Good News are never ashamed to reveal their love for the Lord. How do you reveal to others that you are a follower of Christ each day?

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