



Bukás Loób sa Diyós

(Open in Spirit to God)

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC COVENANT COMMUNITY
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NEWS

Cardinal Tobin Reflects on Stewardship

Taken from the latest edition of Rejoice in the Lord, Cardinal Tobin's September 24, 2020 newsletter to all the faithful in the Archdiocese

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Earlier this year, I published *Returning to Grace: A Pastoral Letter on the Eucharist*. In this letter, I offered some thoughts on the meaning of the Eucharist and its central place in our lives. I also tried to address in positive, hope-filled ways the challenges we face as we emerge from the scourge of the COVID-19 pandemic and the many spiritual, social, physical and financial hardships it imposed on our people, our society and our Church.

All of us—clergy, religious and lay faithful—have a responsibility to invite and encourage our fellow Catholics to return to the grace of the Eucharist. I see this as a stewardship responsibility, an opportunity *“to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace” (1 Pt 4:10)*.

To help raise awareness about the importance of Christian stewardship in our daily lives and in our pastoral ministry, I have written a “pastoral reflection” entitled *Stewards of God's Grace* that contains ideas first proposed by the American bishops in the 1992 pastoral letter *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*. My reflections on stewardship are intended to reinforce the ideas contained in *Returning to Grace*, my pastoral letter on the Eucharist. I urge you to read my stewardship reflections, *Stewards of God's Grace*, in full, but here is a selection of some of the main points:

- How can we do a better job of inviting Catholics to be more actively engaged in the life of their Church? How can we most effectively teach stewardship as a way of life? How can we who are called to be servant leaders model “best practices” of Christian stewardship in our parishes, schools and archdiocesan ministries?

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COUNSELS

Commandment of Love

THEME: We obey God's commandment of love when we trust Him with a child-like faith.

WORD: Gn 2:18-24/ Ps 128:1-6/ Heb 2:9-11/ Mk 10:2-16

ORDER: **“Love the Lord your God with all your heart...love your neighbor as yourself.”**
(Mk 12:30a, 31a)

REFLECTION:

God calls us to keep His commands and reminds us that His laws are not hidden from us or beyond our reach. We can expect opposition as we submit to God's commandments. To guard against these pressures, we must rely on God for strength and pray to Him daily for wisdom to see through these deceptions.

The community word for the month of October which states that **The Kingdom of God is for those who obey His commandment of love**, shows that every believer must have their hearts set on God's commandment, in spite of their imperfections. Immature spiritual growth and limited fruitfulness are but the consequences of undiscerned actions and careless disregard of God's commandment. The steps of a (good) man are directed and established by the Lord, and God has promised guidance to those who submit to His commandment, as expressed in the chosen Order for the month: **“Love the Lord your God with all your heart...love your neighbor as yourself.”** *(Mk 12:30a, 31a)*.

How do we live our lives in obedience for God's commandment of love? Our themes for this month help us to reflect.

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Promise of the Week

“Blessed are you who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways!” *(Ps 128:1)*

NEWS

(from page 1)

• These and many other questions confront us with a new urgency today. As we seek to “return to grace” by encouraging full participation in our prayer and worship, our celebration of the sacraments, and in the ministries of our Church, we need the gifts of the Holy Spirit to give us the courage and the wisdom to be faithful witnesses to the importance of stewardship in our lives.

• To be successful in our efforts to promote full, conscious and active participation in our worship and in the life of the Church, we must help each other grow in our understanding and practice of basic principles of Christian stewardship.

• The spirituality of stewardship makes it possible for us to cherish and use responsibly the gift of grace that we receive in the Holy Eucharist. By sharing generously the time, talent and treasure we have all received from God’s abundant goodness, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel and minister to God’s people in every nation to the ends of the earth.

• Stewardship is what we do with what we have (all our spiritual and material gifts) after we say we believe in God. Stewardship is a form of spirituality, a way of living the Gospel that recognizes God as the ultimate owner of all that we have and all that we are as God’s children.

• As all of us—individuals, families, parishes, schools and other Church ministries—are emerging from more than a year of health crises, social unrest and financial difficulties, we need the spirituality of stewardship more than ever. We need to reflect a mature understanding of what it means to be grateful for all God’s gifts, and to share with others generously and responsibly all that has been entrusted to our care by our merciful and loving God.

• Mature missionary disciples nurture, cultivate and share generously all God’s gifts—not just their financial resources or their time and talent (as important as these are as signs of our responsibility as baptized Christians and stewards of the Church). Being a Christian steward means more. It means giving ourselves, mind body and spirit, as members of the Body of Christ committed to the mission we receive anew every time we receive the Eucharist: to proclaim the joy of the Gospel and to minister to our brothers and sisters in every nation to the ends of the earth.

• Examples of generous stewardship are all around us—especially during the many months of hardship caused by the pandemic. Take, for example, the stewardship of time and → →

→ talent demonstrated by first-responders, recognizing their unselfishness in accepting possible perilous circumstances. The pandemic added to the civic pantheon front-line health care professionals (doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals) and “essential workers” (bus drivers, supermarket employees, food workers). Surely these are they contemporary examples of generous stewardship, illustrating a “life for others”!

• I know from my own experience, and from conversations with pastors in many different kinds of parishes, that Catholics give most generously when they are actively engaged in their parish, school or other Church ministries. In fact, we are all much more likely to share our financial resources if we have first given ourselves—our hearts and minds, our time and talents—to organizations and ministries that we believe are making a difference.

• Our challenge as pastoral leaders is to inform, inspire and invite our people to become more closely involved with their Church through their prayer, their reception of the sacraments (especially Penance and the Eucharist), and through their participation in the liturgy and in ministries that serve the needs of others.

• The chief obstacle to stewardship as a way of life is self-centeredness. Once we understand the “true meaning of stewardship” and are able to “live accordingly,” we can see that the cultural influences that militate against full participation in the life of our Church are overcome by the four characteristics that the bishops’ 1992 stewardship pastoral says describe a Christian steward: Gratitude, Accountability, Generosity, and Giving back to the Lord with increase.

• These fundamental principles are simple, practical applications of the Gospel values that frame our whole lives as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ. They are not things we “add on” in order to raise money or invite greater participation in the life of our Church. Saying thank you, being accountable, giving generously and developing all God’s gifts so that we can return them with increase are integral to Christian life and ministry.

• Nearly 30 years ago, the bishops reminded us that: After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. As the Mother of Christ, she lived her ministry in a spirit of fidelity and service; she responded generously to the call. We must ask ourselves: Do we also wish to be disciples of Jesus Christ and Christian stewards of our world and our Church? Central to our human and Christian vocations, as well as to the unique vocation each one of us receives from ...

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COUNSELS (from page 1)

Our theme for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time is – **We obey God’s commandment of love when we trust Him with a child-like faith.** What qualities of children make them so open to God? In their helplessness and vulnerability, children are by nature trusting, guileless, and totally dependent. The heart of a child is a loving sanctuary of the Holy Spirit. And we are exhorted to present ourselves before God in the same manner. Faithful followers of Christ allow themselves to be childlike in relating to Him, confident that His ways and plans, His power and providence, are in their best interest. They put their faith in His words. To be fully surrendered to God, we are



therefore to be childlike in obedience and in following the footsteps of Christ, and live as He lived His life on earth. Consequently, we can claim this promise for the 1st week – ***“Blessed are you who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways!” (Ps 128:1).***

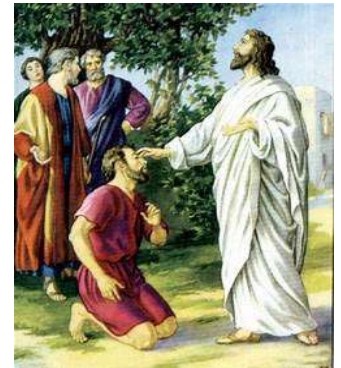
We obey God’s commandment of love when we deny ourselves of worldly attachments is our theme for the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time. God’s encompassing love cannot be felt by people who are engrossed with their own self, their self-sufficiency, their attachment to self-serving comfort, pleasure, power and wealth. The message of the readings is the need for detachment by way of sharing our time, talent and treasure for the good of others. The way towards God is following the example of Jesus in serving others – His care, empathy, compassion and sacrifice, not only by words but through actual action and service. To do good to others and our neighbors is an expression of our love and concern for them. What Jesus did on earth – doing good and sharing God’s goodness with all, should serve as our inspiration when we endeavor to make our life fruitful and pleasing to God. Let us not wait for tomorrow to discover the joy of being free from the vanity of material things and to share the wonders of God’s boundless blessings. Indeed the promise ***“... give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven,” (Mk 10:21b)*** encourages us to imitate our ever generous and loving God.

The theme for the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time tells us – **We obey God’s commandment of love when we wholeheartedly serve, not counting the cost.** Jesus told James and John –



→→ ***“Are you ready to drink the cup that I drink, to be rejected and despised for continuing my work? Would you stand by me before false accusations and malicious intrigues? Would you still trust and tread my footsteps if the cross were to be laid on your shoulders?” (cf. Mk 10:38).*** Jesus was telling His disciples that greatness lies in our ability to suffer with Him and for Him. To be great is to be of service to Jesus and His flock. Greatness is not about power or authority, but about service, being responsible, and fulfilling one’s responsibilities with love. It is not about lording over them, or dominating them. Greatness is the ability to serve, and the readiness to be of help. Greatness is bearing one’s burden without complaint or strings attached, but with loving commitment and concern. Jesus gives us this assurance, ***“If he gives his life as an offering.....the will of the Lord shall be accomplished through him,” (Is 52:10b).***

Our theme for the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time is – **We obey God’s commandment of love when we persevere in our faith.** Like Bartimaeus in the gospel, Jesus is also asking us, ***“What do you want me to do for you?” (cf. Mk 10:51).*** He longs to see us cast aside anything that limits our vision and expectations. He wants to heal our hearts and fill it with the fire of His love. Like Bartimaeus, we too can be blind. Our blindness may be compared to those of the crowd who rebuked Bartimaeus, telling him to be silent (v.48). Sometimes, we too keep silent when we ought to be speaking out against what is morally and legally wrong. We turn a blind eye to what is good in other people, quick to notice their mistakes, or discredit those who are more effective, acceptable and credible than us. Let us thank God for the gift of sight and resolve to take care and respect the greater gift of moral insight called “conscience” and the gift of spiritual sight called “faith.”



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Directions

- 1. Obey God’s commandments, read the Word daily and live it.***
- 2. Persevere in serving the Lord by sharing your blessings with the poor and responding to their needs.***
- 3. Honor our Blessed Mother by praying the rosary daily and emulate her obedience to God.***

COUNSELS

(from page 3)

The Lord reaches out to us and gives us His word of life: *“I will console and guide them...so that none shall stumble,”* (Jer 31:9b).

Finally, for the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time, our theme is – **We obey God’s commandment of love when we sincerely love our neighbor in word and deed.** Deuteronomy 6:2 says, *“Fear the Lord, your God, and keep, throughout the days of your lives, all his statutes and commandments... and thus have long life.* To fear God does not mean to be afraid of God. It means to place oneself in His presence in an attitude of total self-giving and trust and of acceptance of His will. Let us first see what “to love” is for us. For instance, how do the children show their parents that they love them? Smiles, good behavior, promises? Children show their love by helping their parents. Love for God is not proven by words, solemn rites or beautiful songs, but by accepting the plan that He has revealed to us in Jesus. We are being asked to obey the two commandments which Jesus emphasized during His sermon in the temple: in life one has to get involved in helping people, educating them, providing them with food and shelter, clothes and assistance. Also, to take care of our family. However, Jesus reminds us not to neglect our duties towards God: prayer, scripture reading, and Sunday mass, devotional practices. Thus, we will be able to claim this promise: *“... that you may grow and prosper the more...to give you a land flowing with milk and honey,”* (Dt. 6:3).

Prayer: Lord of heaven and of earth, walk us through in these turbulent times, as we follow You and obey Your commandment of love. Amen.

NEWS

(from page 2)

God, is that we be good stewards of the gifts we possess. God gives us this divine-human workshop, this world and Church of ours.

Returning to the grace of the Eucharist provides us with new opportunities to invite all our sisters and brothers in northern New Jersey to discover the richness and joy of life in Christ. Christian discipleship compels us to be good stewards of all God’s gifts, especially our Lord’s gift of Himself in the Holy Eucharist. As individuals, families, parishes and as a diocese, may we use this opportunity to renew our commitment to the spirituality of stewardship as a way of encouraging full participation in the Eucharistic Mystery.

Sincerely yours in Christ the Redeemer,
Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.
Archbishop of Newark

LORD’S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK’S

Collections:	Last Week	YTD
Tithes & Love Offerings / E-Giving / Mailed Checks	\$1,926	\$83,523
Covid 19 Collection	\$ -	\$ 1,990
Mission	\$ -	\$ 5,000

Financial details are available to all members through treasury@bldnewark.com

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generosity and support

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

BLD Newark Live Stream



BLD Newark Livestream
EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATION
FRIDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2021 8:00 PM

Feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary
2000 Hail Mary
Saturday, Oct. 9, 2021
8 am – 6 pm / DMP Auditorium



Holy Rosary/ Praise & Worship
Friday, Oct. 15, 2021 / Divine Mercy Parish

In-person Community Teaching:
“Norms and Values”

<https://www.bldnewark.com/live-events.html>



BLD Newark
**ASPIRANTS
RETREAT**
October 15-17, 2021
CYO Kearny, NJ

Aspirants Retreat
October 15-17, 2021
CYO Kearny, NJ

**Please join our own Intercessory Ministry in their
nightly community prayers via Zoom. Everyone is
most welcome to participate**
Zoom ID: 2265467380 / PW: 750109
For more details, please contact Ram & Claire Bautista