

## *Stewardship Expressions*

### **April 2011**

We bask in the brightness of God's love as spring arrives with sunshine and warmth filling more of our days. Look around to feel God's presence in new birth, nurtured growth, color and outdoor activities. Lent continues to provide so many opportunities for us to use as incentives to share a good attitude in outreaching kindness, generosity and service. Let us renew our efforts this month to hear Christ's message in Scripture and to live our call to mission and purpose in daily living.

We began Lent with a focus on prayer, fasting and almsgiving. All three we can offer to God and to others as gifts reflecting and continuing our loving spirit.

Every person that becomes a follower of Christ goes through a conversion process of listening and taking to heart what Christ taught and modeled. Pray for those soon to be received into the Catholic Church. Reflect on where you are in your faith conversion and in living as a disciple of Christ.

The Lenten Rice Bowl money collection is one of many ways to make our food fast a means of serving others. Experiencing personal hunger reminds us that people of all ages yearn for food each day. Every contribution is valued and helpful.

We're part way through Lent, with time to renew our intentions and efforts. It's not too late to start from this point forward to make a new ending to our weeks of preparation for Easter.

Connect daily with Jesus ...trust in the Lord ... strive for obedience [to God] ...listen as God speaks to you ...feel His presence in your daily life ...learn about faith from others ...set aside quiet time to reflect on Jesus' journey to Crucifixion ...never lose hope ...receive the gift of the Eucharist hearing Jesus say, "Do this in memory of me" ... all as ways toward personal spiritual and faith development this Lent.

Jesus converses in a kind way with a Samaritan woman at a well, enlightening and inspiring her to become one of his followers. While suffering on a cross, Jesus lovingly cares for the future of his mother, offers paradise to a remorseful thief, and asks the Father to forgive all people. Think of the many persons we meet as we journey through our life. Each meeting is an opportunity to see the face of Christ in others and to act Christ-like in all we say and do.

The glory and joy of Christ's Resurrection is exciting to anticipate and celebrate. Stewardship expressions are reflections of the spirit and love of the person sharing them. We can continue Easter's rejoicing in the months ahead through our efforts...one moment at a time.

Rejoice!! Alleluia!!!

God bless you.

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