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ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA

Dedicated Members of the Linens Ministry Perform Important Role for the Mass



The ministry members take turns each week after the last Sunday Mass collecting the used purificators and corporals, as well as the hand towels, or lavabos.

The linens used at Mass appear on the altar fresh and clean, week after week, with little fanfare. But a dedicated group of parishioners make sure these items are cared for in keeping with the important role they play in the sacrifice of the Mass.

Carmel Akins is the Linens Ministry coordinator who leads what she calls “very dedicated members” of the ministry. There are five in all.

“This is one of the jobs no one knows is being done,” she says. “We do it with St. Teresa’s motto, ‘Do little things with great love.’”

The ministry members take turns each week after the last Sunday Mass collecting the used purificators and corporals, as well as the hand towels, or lavabos. The items must be carefully rinsed first, then washed. Each must be ironed in a particular way. No starch or fabric softeners may be used.

Carmel joined the Linens Ministry when Betty Lentz reached out for help in her care of the linens.

“She did it each week, year in and year out,” Carmel says. “Betty should be nominated for sainthood — she did it each week without help. But then she needed

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THE PRINCIPLES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

What makes being Catholic, well, “Catholic”?

Things like the Mass, the Rosary and the Seven Sacraments come to mind.

But there is also an element of Church teaching that’s often overlooked and sometimes misunderstood — Catholic Social Teaching.

Catholic Social Teaching guides Catholics on how to apply the faith to all aspects of life, and lays the framework for the Church’s teachings on the dignity and sacredness of human life.

Catholic Social Teaching can be explained with 10 key points. These 10 principles demonstrate the depth of the Church’s teaching on social justice, and they call Catholics to take an active role in shaping the world in which we live. Catholic Social Teaching, when taken to heart, can become the catalyst that causes positive change in a world that desperately needs it. Consider these principles and strive to apply them in your own life.

HUMAN DIGNITY

Human dignity is the fundamental principle within the Church’s teaching on social justice. A firm understanding of this principle is required so that the rest of Catholic Social Teaching can be viewed from the appropriate perspective. God created us in His image and likeness, so we all are worthy of respect.

RESPECT FOR HUMAN LIFE

Whether unborn or seconds away from death, no life deserves to be prematurely ended. The Church sees this principle as crucial to the health of any society.

ASSOCIATION

Association holds that social relationships must be developed so that all people may reach their fullest potential. The Church teaches that the family is the basic unit upon which all other elements of society rest. We must uphold the sacredness of the family, and foster the growth of other societal organizations that preserve the well-being of all people.

PARTICIPATION

All people deserve the right to work and to participate in God’s creation. The joy of accomplishing a task and performing honest labor should be made available to all people.

PROTECTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

Society exists in a balance between those with power, and those without it. The vulnerable — those with disabilities — and the poor must be protected from those with power who choose to wield it in an unjust manner.

SOLIDARITY

“Love your neighbor as yourself” — this commandment extends beyond the boundaries of any town, state or country. The principle of solidarity encourages all people to reach out to their brothers and sisters in need and to help them, even if they live halfway around the world.

STEWARDSHIP

Everything we have — even our own lives — is a gift from God. Our talents, our time and our financial resources are not our own, but God’s. The same goes for the natural resources we so often take for granted.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND LIMITS OF GOVERNMENT

Governments, while created for the common good, sometimes overstep their boundaries. The Church teaches that all governments should seek to operate at the lowest level of organization possible — striving to solve problems at the source, with those who understand them best, and not through oppressive force.

HUMAN EQUALITY

God made all humans equal, including those of different ethnicity and race, and in different stages of life. No one person is of more value than another.

COMMON GOOD

It is especially important in our society to promote the common good — the social well-being and development of the “human group.” If we consider the entire human race as one family, the common good urges us to support our brothers and sisters so that they may reach their full potential.



ST. ANTHONY of PADUA



A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

This Month and Beyond, Let Us Share the Faith in Word and Action

Dear Parishioners,

When reading through our newsletter, it is clear that we often discuss and reflect upon the topic of ministries — within our community and beyond — and how Christ shares His ministry with us.

As a faith community that is committed to living out stewardship, we all share in Christ's ministry. And while we share our many gifts with God and His Church, we take the truths set forth in the readings from Scripture and apply them to present-day life. Of course, that's what you are supposed to do when you share your faith with your family, friends, neighbors and coworkers.

But what does it mean to "share our faith"? Well, it is exactly what parents — as the "domestic church" — are supposed to do with their children. Furthermore, lay people act as catechists when they teach religion classes in Catholic schools or help with religious education programs in their parishes.

"Sharing the faith" also encompasses serving and providing assistance to those in need, both within and beyond the parish community, or bringing the Eucharist to the ill or homebound who cannot regularly attend Mass. In these ways and more, lay people have many opportunities to participate directly in the ministry of the Church.

But as the Second Vatican Council reminded us, "An apostolate of this kind does not consist only in the witness of one's way of life; a true apostle looks for opportunities to announce Christ by words addressed either to non-believers with a view to leading them to faith, or to the faithful with a view to instructing, strengthening, and encouraging them to a more fervent life" (*Apostolicam Actuositatem, Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity*, 6).

In other words, we must proclaim our Christian faith through our actions and how we live our lives — and *also* be prepared to share it in words if we are given the opportunity. With this in mind, we may each want to make a commitment of time to study the Scriptures and the Church's teachings so that we may be better prepared to share the faith!

Of course, the month of October draws us a little closer to the end of the year — thus, we are soon approaching the celebration of Thanksgiving, and the Advent and Christmas seasons. In the next few months, we will each have so many opportunities to share our faith through words and actions. I ask you to prayerfully consider how you will take advantage of these

opportunities, living as stewards carrying out His ministry every day, for the rest of this year and beyond.

May God grant you the grace to share richly as a disciple of Christ!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Tom Donovan". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Fr. Tom Donovan
Pastor



For Matt and Penny Weiman, STEWARDSHIP



*The Weiman family — (back, from left) Penny, Macy and Matt;
(front, from left) Addison, Luke and Elaina*

With their enthusiastic involvement in our parish community, Matt and Penny Weiman are carrying on a long-held tradition from both of their families. Matt grew up right here at St. Anthony, while Penny's family attended St. Dominic. The couple was married in 2008 — just after the two parishes merged — and have actively participated in life at St. Anthony ever since. Having been raised by parents who modeled active faith lives, Matt and Penny's shared Catholic faith has remained at the center of their life together.

Reflecting on his childhood at St. Anthony, Matt realizes how much his early immersion in church activities shaped his adult faith life.

"I went to school at St. Anthony, and when I first started there, we had Mass every day," he says. "Making the sacraments in the Church and serving Mass was just a way of life. My parents were also active, with their children attending school there."

Like Matt, Penny grew up witnessing a strong example of stewardship in her own parents.

"We were at church every Sunday and we served," she says. "My mom was a PTO President and part of the school environment, and everybody knew her. Having an active parent made school fun for me, and that's what leads me to be active at St. Dominic School now."

As parents to four young children — Elaina, 8; Addison, 6; Luke, 4; and Macy, 2 — Matt and Penny now find themselves a part of the "new generation" of young families who are continuing a tradition of stewardship in our parish. Penny is the new PTO President at the school, a member of the Ladies Society, and helps with the Children's Liturgy, as well as Donuts and Coffee hospitality. Matt just finished up as Chair of the Parish Picnic and serves as an usher during Sunday Mass.

Because Matt and Penny enjoy the sense of fellowship that comes with being actively involved in parish life, they rarely hesitate to take advantage of the many opportunities to serve that come their way.

"We'll volunteer for anything — if it comes up at a parish meeting or PTO meeting, we have no problem jumping in with both feet!" Penny says.

ST. ANTHONY of PADUA



IP IS A FAMILY TRADITION

Thankful for the example set by their parents, the Weimans strive to pass their love of stewardship on to their own children.

“It’s just been in our roots,” Penny says of serving the Church. “It’s something we continued from when we were young. We were already active and involved, so we continued what our parents instilled in us. And now our children are not just watching, but they’re also participating and helping us. So hopefully as adults, they will continue to have that right attitude and have the talents and traits to help out the parish.”

Matt and Penny have seen many benefits to rooting their family life in faith and service, including an increased sense of unity.

“Serving together definitely makes us closer as a family,” Matt says. “And I think it will even more so over the next few years, as the kids get older and can actively participate and do more.”

Helping out with school and parish activities has also given the Weimans to make meaningful connections with their fellow parishioners.

“We’ve been blessed by getting involved, getting to know other people, and hearing their life stories and their experiences,” Penny says. “Knowing the people that you’re sitting with in the pews makes a huge difference.”

Matt and Penny are thankful for the many devoted parishioners at St. Anthony that keep all of our parish ministries and activities running.

“I’m always impressed by the group of people that is there to step in and do things,” Matt says. “I guess you feel that they have your back, because there’s just always a group of people ready to help out and make things happen.”

The Weimans view serving the Church and staying focused on their faith as a lifelong commitment, and they pray that this family tradition continues to be passed down from generation to generation!

Dedicated Members of the Linens Ministry Perform Important Role for the Mass *continued from front cover*

help and I volunteered. After a couple months, I was asking for help, and others stepped up.”

The time Carmel spends doing the cleaning becomes a prayerful time for her.

“I usually pray for the priests and who is on the altar using the cloths,” she says. “It’s fulfilling to me and I hope a blessing to them.”

Although Carmel says she cannot speak for the other ministry members, she believes that whatever is done for God helps bring us closer to Him.

Additional ministry members are always needed.

“We can really use some substitutes,” Carmel says.

“This is one of the jobs no one knows is being done. We do it with St. Teresa’s motto, ‘Do little things with great love.’”

— CARMEL AKINS, LINENS MINISTRY COORDINATOR

To join the Linens Ministry, contact Carmel Akins at 217-222-7855, or call the parish office at 217-222-5996.

THE STEWARDSHIP OF *St Francis of Assisi*

He was born as Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone in Assisi, Italy, in 1181 or 1182 and died at the age of 44 in 1226. In spite of his given name, his father was traveling in France at the time of his birth, so he opted to call him Francesco, which means “the Frenchman.” We, of course, know him as St. Francis of Assisi, whose feast day we celebrate on Oct. 4. To say that he is among the most revered of our Catholic saints would be an understatement.

In their pastoral letter *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops states, “After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward.” Our Catholic saints also provide us examples of what it means to be a steward, but

perhaps none more than St. Francis of Assisi. Like the Lord and His Blessed Mother, St. Francis exemplified stewardship.

We were reminded of that fact when our Holy Father chose the name Francis. The pope explained his choice in this way: “For me he [Francis] is the man of poverty, the man of peace, the man who loves and safeguards Creation. He is a man who gives us this spirit of peace.” From the time he was a boy, Francis recognized that he was gifted — he also understood that he needed to put his gifts at the service of God and others. One of his followers, Brother Leo, was fond of telling that he could hear Francis praying at night, and that St. Francis used the same prayer over and over. It was, “Oh God, Who are You, and who am I?”

Striving to come to an understanding of his relationship with God, and his role as a disciple of the Lord, St. Francis tried to rid himself of all the things that might prevent him from discovering his role in the Kingdom. Early on, he embraced poverty as a way of life. By eschewing possessions, Francis maintained that his voluntary poverty gave him freedom, freedom from owing anyone other than God, and thus giving him the complete freedom to serve God.

We speak of the Four Pillars of Stewardship — Prayer, Hospitality, Formation, and Service. The life St. Francis embraced and the life he lived can almost be



defined by those pillars. Francis and the community he developed did not accept money — they worked for enough food to eat for that day, or for water, or for a place to sleep. His example coerces us to ask, “Are there possessions that restrict us, that hinder our ability to be a disciple?”

St. Francis dedicated his entire life to imitating the life of Christ and to carrying out the work of the Lord as he, Francis, perceived Christ would do it. Of course, St. Francis had ultimate love of the Eucharist, and great respect for the priests who carried out this sacrament. As stated, poverty became a way of life for him. In fact, in his last written work, *The Testament*, Francis stated that personal and

corporate poverty were essential as the lifestyle for the members of his Order.

Francis was a steward of all Creation. He believed that nature and what it represented was the “mirror of God.” Most representations we see of Francis have animals with him and surrounding him. He called all creatures his “sisters” and “brothers.” He had particular love of birds, and was known to preach to them. As a steward and a disciple of Christ, St. Francis viewed all people with love and respect. He said, “How can I be a friend of Christ if I do not cherish those for whom Christ died?”

It is difficult to assess all the ways that St. Francis has influenced our faith and our practice of it. His desire to be Christ-like provides a stewardship example to us that makes clear to us how to move toward holiness. He had the humility of a complete servant. He once said, “If God can work through me, He can work through anyone.” Although the famous prayer attributed to St. Francis is most likely not a direct quote from him, it well represents his philosophy and his sense of stewardship. In part it states, “Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love, for it is in giving that we receive.” Through stewardship, we give — and what we receive in return, just as was the case with St. Francis of Assisi, is beyond our comprehension.

ST. ANTHONY of PADUA



Funeral Dinner Ministry Lovingly Serves the Bereaved in their Time of Need

Even in moments of sadness and loss, it is important for bereaved family and friends to gather and share in an important time, without any worries or concerns. It's an opportunity to share in memories, perhaps even sharing a few smiles or laughs as they fondly recall happy moments with their loved one. And this is exactly what our Funeral Dinner Ministry strives to provide.

"We're helping out people in a time of need," says parishioner Kay Koch of our Funeral Dinner Ministry. "It's one less worry off people's minds. After the funeral, you don't have to make arrangements to have everybody get together — the church furnishes that, and they furnish the food. People are so thankful that we have that here."

Here at St. Anthony of Padua, our Funeral Dinner Ministry helps to care for those who have recently lost a loved one. The parish provides the main part of the

meal and parishioners who are part of this ministry come together to provide salads, desserts and other sides. Those who volunteer with this ministry usually arrive before the funeral to set up, and stay to wash dishes and clean up, once the meal and gathering has concluded.

"When somebody dies, you just know you're supposed to bring a dish and work if you can," Kay says. "It's what we do."

Kay witnessed firsthand the blessings provided through the Funeral Dinner Ministry, when she suffered the loss of both her husband and son within a short period of time, several years ago.

"I greatly appreciated it," Kay says. "When he died, we had only been in the parish for a year and a half and I was amazed at the amount of parishioners who came to the funeral or sent cards — some of them, I didn't even really

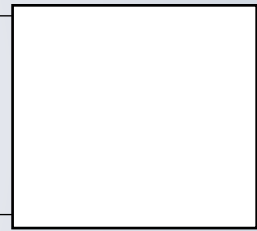
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***"We're helping out people in a time of need.
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— KAY KOCH



ST. ANTHONY of PADUA



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Return Service Requested

WWW.STANTHONYPADUA.ORG

DAILY MASS: MON, TUE, & THU - 7:30 A.M.

SATURDAY: 4:00 P.M. & 6:30 P.M.

SUNDAY: 8:00 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.

CONFESSIONS: SATURDAY 5:15 - 6:15 P.M.

Funeral Dinner Ministry Lovingly Serves the Bereaved in their Time of Need *continued from page 7*

know that well! When everything was over with, it gave me time to relax and reminisce about the good times. I see that a lot with families, people just visiting and having a good time.”

For Kay, who joined the parish about six years ago from St. Dominic Parish, serving with the Funeral Dinners Ministry has also been an opportunity to build relationships with fellow parishioners.

“I’ve gotten to know a lot of the members a lot better,” she says. “We didn’t know how it was going to work when we joined, and I think both churches were a little leery, but I liked the small church and the family feeling and that’s what we get out here. It’s helped me get over my husband’s death. It has kept me busy. At my age, I want to give back to the community.”

The Funeral Dinners Ministry gives both parishioners and visitors alike a sense of the generous and caring community that supports our parish.

“I think anybody who comes senses the community and how well the parish works together and how much work we do to keep the church going,” Kay says.

Kay encourages her fellow parishioners to consider becoming involved in this ministry, caring for those who are grieving.

“It gives you a sense of being useful in a time of need and helping out a family,” Kay says. “Most of us Christians, we want to help people, and that’s one way to help them. Come help us serve a dinner. It’ll give you joy to help out.”

If you would like more information, or would like to become involved with serving on the Funeral Dinners Ministry, please contact Tawny Benz in the parish at 217-222-5996, or at her personal number at 217-257-0847.

To learn more about stewardship at St. Anthony of Padua, please contact the Stewardship Committee at stanthonystewardship2015@gmail.com.