

"Our Father, who art in heaven" ★★

www.graceinaction.org
June 2007



Photo by James Baca

celebrate
June

- 3 Most Holy Trinity
- 10 Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
- 13 St. Anthony of Padua
- 15 Sacred Heart of Jesus
- 16 Immaculate Heart of Mary
- 22 St. Thomas More
- 29 Sts. Peter and Paul

new parables

Stewardship requires care and vision



here were two men who shared an office. One kept his desk clean. He carefully filed his folders,

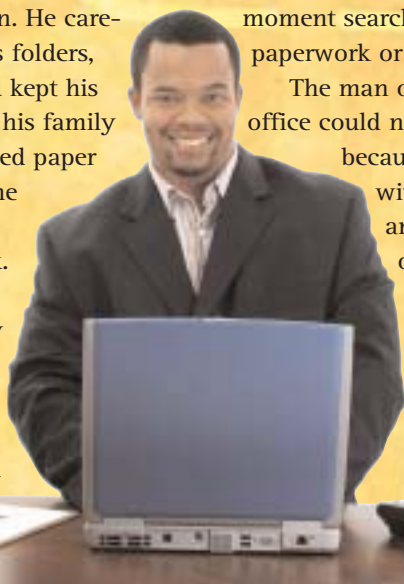
sorted his inbox daily and kept his magazines organized and his family photos updated. He recycled paper as soon as possible. And he always put his keys in the left top drawer of his desk. He always cleaned the lenses of his one and only pair of sunglasses before he put them back in their case, and then put the case in the top right-hand

drawer of his desk. This man used his time efficiently and rarely wasted a moment searching for misplaced paperwork or personal effects.

The man on the other side of the office could not work at his desk because it was piled high with strewn periodicals and photographs, CDs out of their boxes. Full inboxes and empty coffee cups littered the floor near his desk. This man regularly lost phone messages and

important documents; and whenever this man wanted to leave the office for an appointment, a lunch meeting or at the end of the day, he could not find his keys. He could never find his sunglasses either, although he owned at least a dozen different models. He neglected to clean the lenses, and when he did, he simply wiped them on his shirt, which resulted in scratches on the lenses; which led him to purchase yet another pair; which only contributed to the clutter on his desk.

The man with the tidy desk, however, left work with a sense of calm about him, rarely rushed. When he was ready to leave the office, he always knew precisely where his keys were, and his sunglasses, as well.

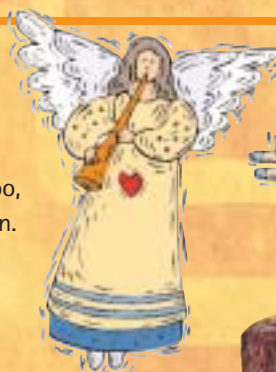


faithfact★ ★Heaven help us

Catholic pizza mogul Tom Monaghan, in a recent article in *The New Yorker*, defined his philanthropy's ultimate motivation: heaven. Even though the Catholic steward knows that virtue is its own reward, we, too, can look heavenward for our ultimate reward and our earthly motivation. We're not certain of the details, but Scriptures give us a peek at the nature of heaven.

The Old Testament describes heaven as a vast vault that covers the earth, a firmament of metal hammered into a thin, half sphere and a building sustained by columns. Other verses describe the windows in heaven through which rain fall and mention heaven's storehouses for hail, snow, wind.

In the New Testament, Jesus and His disciples speak of heaven as the wedding feast, the Father's mansion, the new Jerusalem, a place of light and peace, paradise. St. Paul wrote of Christians as citizens of heaven and described heaven as a treasure, the inheritance of the believers, a home built by God.



CORNERSTONE

"The world is only
peopled to people heaven."
— St. Francis de Sales

defining moments

A stewardship alphabet



Faithful

[Christifideles]:

Broadly understood, all the baptized who have been instructed and admitted to communion within the Church . . . the People of God; sharing in Christ's priestly, prophetic and royal office, they are called to exercise the mission given by God to the Church of working for the salvation of souls. The faithful are thus obliged to lead a holy life; to promote the growth of the Church, her continual sanctification, and the spread of the Gospel; to obey legitimate ecclesial authority; to provide for the

needs of the Church; and to promote social justice.

Fortitude: The cardinal virtue and gift of the Holy Spirit that enables one to attain good even when suffering and effort are needed. It grants the strength to overcome all obstacles in living the Gospel and to avoid temptations.

Freedom: The capacity, free of pressures, to "self-determine" one's actions. The Church has emphasized the necessity of a person's freedom and has worked for the protection of that freedom. People can reject God's grace and gift of eternal life. True freedom

recognizes the place of God in life and responds to His invitation to live free from sin and darkness.

Free will: The faculty or capability of making a reasonable choice among several alternatives. Freedom of will underlies the possibility and fact of moral responsibility.

Fruits of the Holy Spirit:

The virtues put into action through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. St. Paul names them: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness and self-control.

See *Stewardship Alphabet letters A-E* at our website: www.graceinaction.org

Source: OSV Catholic Dictionary

kids corner

The way we pray

Prayer is important to Catholic stewards. Jesus taught us to pray always as we live and before we die, so that we can join God and all the angels and saints in heaven. Bedtime brings a beautiful time to pray.

Kids, learn these prayers by heart. Parents, if you have young children, help them memorize a prayer as you pray together before bed.

Also, we've included two short but sweet prayers for parents to pray over children — no matter what age.



Photo by Lukey Parrott

Night Prayers

Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep.
Four corners to my bed,
Four angels there aspread:
two to foot and two to head,
And four to carry me when I'm dead.

If any danger come to me,
Sweet Jesus Christ deliver me.
And if I die before I wake,
I pray the Lord my soul to take.

Angel sent by God to guide me,
be my light and walk beside me;
be my guardian and protect me,
on the paths of life direct me.

Sleep, my child, let peace attend thee,
All through the night,
Guardian angels God will send thee,
All through the night.

Child of hope and promise,
May you walk in the light.
May the angels guard you
Through the dark of night.

From *Catholic Family Prayer Book*,
published by Our Sunday Visitor

sowing seeds

A priestly role through baptism

"Although Jesus is the unique priest and mediator, his disciples share in his priestly work. Baptism makes them 'a royal priesthood' (1 Pt 2:9) called to offer up the world and all that is in it — especially themselves — to the Lord of all."

—*Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*
U.S. Catholic bishops' stewardship pastoral



In June, we celebrate Father's Day; and with Father's Day, we also celebrate our heavenly Father, as well as our Fathers — our Catholic priests — here on earth. Yet each of us, as part of the Christian lay faithful, plays a priestly role. We don't wear Roman collars, but we can wear visible signs of our faith — religious jewelry, for example.

We cannot hear confessions, but we can listen to others and counsel the doubtful. We cannot consecrate the Eucharist, but we can participate in Mass and many other rituals and rites. And, as priests do, we can sanctify daily life with prayer.

What do you offer to the Lord? How do you share in the priestly work of Jesus?

June 17 marks Father's Day. Remember: Don't call on your dad only when you need money. Same with your heavenly father!

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Grace In Action, Our Sunday Visitor, Inc., • 200 Noll Plaza, Huntington, IN 46750
Phone: 1-800-348-2440. Fax: 1-260-359-9117.

E-mail: gjaiction@osv.com • Please visit our website: www.graceinaction.org