

"In the beginning
was the Word"
— John 1:1

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June 2008

GRACE IN Action

LIVING CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP™

celebrate
June



- 13 St. Anthony of Padua
- 15 Father's Day
- 24 Birth of St. John the Baptist
- 29 Sts. Peter and Paul

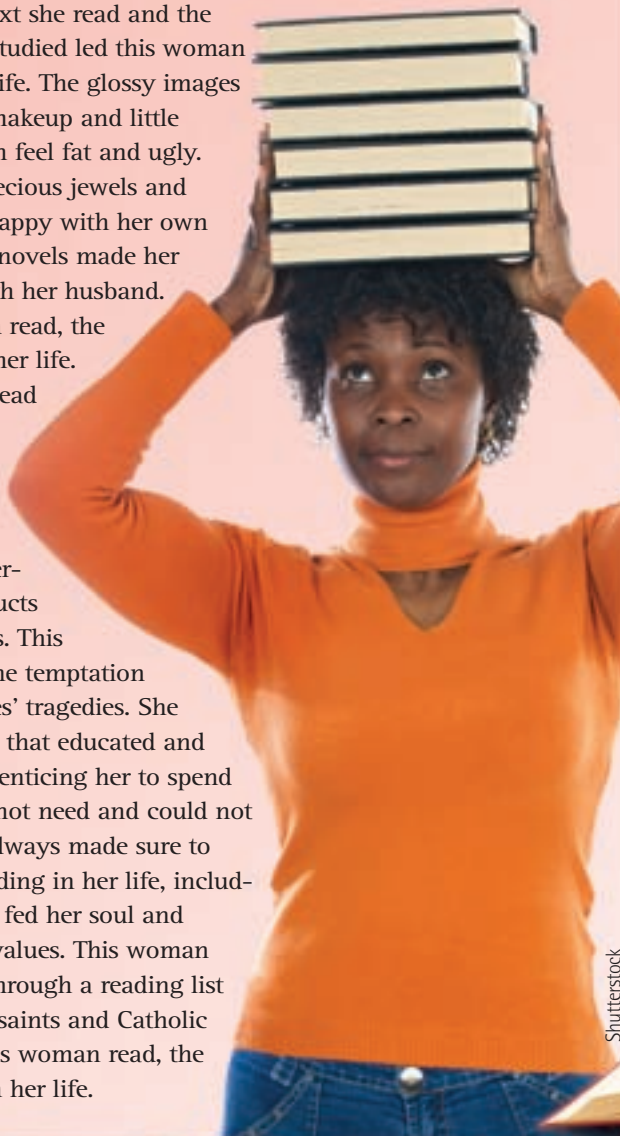
Cut along dotted line to keep as bookmark.



newparable Steward your intellect

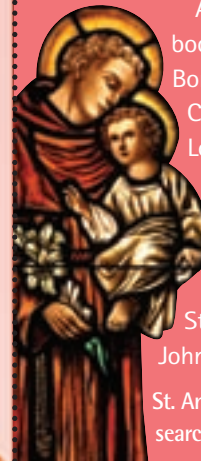
There was a woman who read voraciously. She spent her dollars on dime-store romance novels. She devoured tabloids purchased at the grocery store. This woman enjoyed reading online gossip columns about celebrities and subscribed to a number of magazines that focused on fashion. The text she read and the photographs she studied led this woman to dislike herself and her life. The glossy images of thin models in lots of makeup and little clothing made this woman feel fat and ugly. The advertisements for precious jewels and luxury cars made her unhappy with her own belongings. The romance novels made her resent her relationship with her husband. And the more this woman read, the less content she felt with her life.

Another woman also read voraciously, yet she kept tabs on the quality of the material she read. She avoided publications with too many distracting advertisements for luxury products that made her covet riches. This woman did not fall into the temptation of reading about celebrities' tragedies. She subscribed to publications that educated and informed her, rather than enticing her to spend money on things she did not need and could not afford. And this woman always made sure to include some spiritual reading in her life, including Sacred Scriptures that fed her soul and reminded her of her true values. This woman eagerly worked her way through a reading list that included writings by saints and Catholic scholars; and the more this woman read, the more content she felt with her life.



Shutterstock

faithfact Saintly bookworms



Art depicts these saints with books: St. Anthony of Padua, St. Boniface, St. Bridget of Sweden, St. Cyril of Jerusalem, St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Lawrence, St. Luke, St. Mark, St. Paul, St. Teresa of Avila. The following saints often are depicted with a pen: St. Ambrose, St. Augustine of Hippo, St. Cyril of Alexandria, St. Isidore, St. John Chrysostom.

St. Anthony of Padua, intercessor for searchers of lost articles.

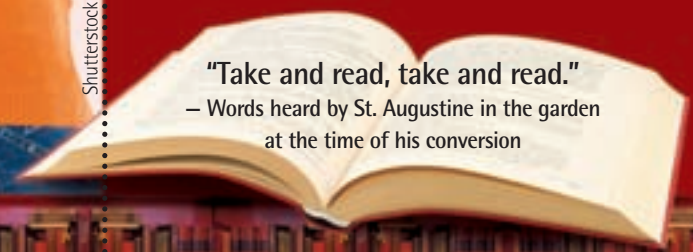
trythis Stewardship Scriptures

Venerable Cardinal John Henry Newman wrote, "It is our duty to live among books; especially to live by one book, and a very old one." He was, of course, referring to the Bible. Read the following parables of Jesus to make sense out of dollars, work and worldly possessions.

- ✿ Hidden Treasure (Matthew 13:44)
- ✿ Valuable Pearl (Mt 13:45)
- ✿ Generous Employer (Mt 20:1-16)
- ✿ Talents (Mt 25:14-30; Luke 19:12-27)
- ✿ Rich Fool (Lk 12:16-21)
- ✿ Dependence on Providence (Lk 12:22-34)
- ✿ Barren Fig Tree (Lk 13:6-9)
- ✿ Lost Coin (Lk 15:8-10)
- ✿ Unjust Steward (Lk 16:1-7)
- ✿ Rich Man and Lazarus (Lk 16:19-31)
- ✿ Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Lk 18:9-14)

"Take and read, take and read."

— Words heard by St. Augustine in the garden at the time of his conversion



sowingseeds

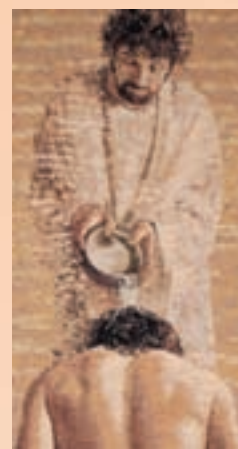
Stories of our souls

"[Jesus] knows people's personal histories, their strengths and weaknesses, their destinies; he has a purpose in mind for each one."

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

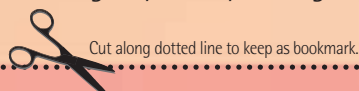
Everybody has a story. And every life story is, truly, unique. Each person brings to the table a different history, different strengths and weaknesses; yet each person also shares in the story of humanity. "To listen gladly to holy reading" is St. Benedict's

Rule 4, one of the Benedictine order's "tools of good works." St. Thérèse of Lisieux wrote, "Jesus needs neither books nor doctors of divinity to instruct souls; He, the Doctor of Doctors, He teaches without the noise of words."



What are your strengths? Your weaknesses? What is your life's purpose? How can you teach "without the noise of words"?

John the Baptist and Jesus
James Baca photo



Cut along dotted line to keep as bookmark.

kidsCORNER

Read a good book

"Rosary Reflections for Kids Tablet"

Joe Oka

This unique drawing pad allows children to enter into the mysteries of the Rosary in a more personal and enjoyable way. A printed Rosary in the center tracks progress and encourages children to pray.

"Our Father: The Prayer Jesus Taught"

Gail Newey and Mary Joslin

Each phrase of the Our Father is beautifully illustrated, reflected upon and paired with an appropriate Bible verse — an excellent way to teach children the significance of this classic prayer.

"Look It Up! Over 600 Definitions for Catholic Kids and Their Parents and Teachers"

Janet L. Alampi

This spiral-bound dictionary explains important words of the Catholic faith. Arranged in a kid-friendly format, "Look It Up!" incorporates clip art and pronunciation aids to promote learning.

Perfect for kids ages 10-14, as well as parents and teachers looking for responses to difficult questions kids ask. — Source: Kelley

L. Renz, author of "God Listens To Our Children" (deargodthisiskelley.blogspot.com)



definingmoments

Source: OSV's Catholic Dictionary

Stewardship alphabet



Obedience: The moral virtue by which one submits to the will or law of one in exercise of legitimate authority.

In the Bible, to obey is really to "hear" the expressed will of God by responding to it completely and without hesitation.

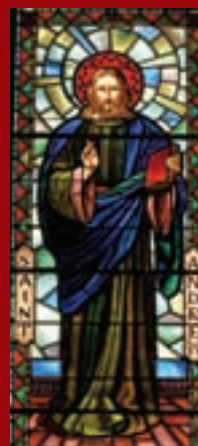
Obedience of Faith: Each Christian's first obedience must be to God, so that the human respondent entrusts his whole self entirely to God.

Occasion of Sin: A person, place or thing that is an attraction and enticement to sin; it may be either a situation that always leads to sin or one that usually leads to sin. One is obliged to avoid occasions of sin or, if they cannot be avoided completely, to make them as "remote" as possible.

Offertory Collection: The taking up of monetary gifts at Mass at the beginning of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. In the past, the faithful brought money, but especially the fruits of their toil — cattle, vegetables,

fruits, etc. Each member of the Church is obliged to give according to his means and to be generous.

Orante: A figure depicted in early Christian art in the classical attitude of prayer, the orante has his or her hands lifted up, with palms facing outward, the elbows slightly bent. The physical demeanor conveys an attitude of adoration and praise; as the hands are lifted up, so the orante's mind and heart are raised to God. The palms are open to show an offering of thanks, but also to keep the sacred at a distance, lest the orante be guilty of profaning the presence of the sacred by approaching too closely.



James Baca photo

Organ Transplants: Morally, the transplanting of organs from one person to another is permissible provided that: 1) concerned parties consent fully and 2) it is not expected to result in the death or essential mutilation of the donor.

Visit graceinaction.org for stewardship alphabet letters A-N.

NOTE: My Daily Visitor, published since 1957, is a small booklet that can make a big impact on your daily life. For each day of the year, this inspirational companion contains suggested Bible readings, prayers and brief reflections by gifted guest writers. A year's subscription costs just \$13.95. Visit www.osv.com or call 800-348-2440.

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