

"... the earth is
replete with the fruit of
your works."
— Psalm 104:13

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June 2009

GRACE IN ACTION



LIVING CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP™

celebrate June

- 7 Most Holy Trinity
- 14 Body and Blood of Christ
- 19 Sacred Heart of Jesus
- 20 Immaculate Heart of Mary
- 29 Sts. Peter and Paul



The triquetra symbolizes the Trinity.

new parable Use your gifts!

There was a newlywed couple that received a croquet set as a wedding gift. The gift-givers enjoyed rounds of croquet with family members and friends; and they wanted to share the game with the bride and groom. The newlyweds examined the mallets and balls fashioned from fine hardwoods and painted with brilliant paints. The couple admired the craftsmanship of the croquet set, but they did not want to chip the paint on the balls or splinter the wood in the mallets, so they put the gift in the garage. They never played even one game of croquet. Year after year, their wedding gift remained in perfect condition except for the dust that settled on the perfect mallets and the vividly colored balls.



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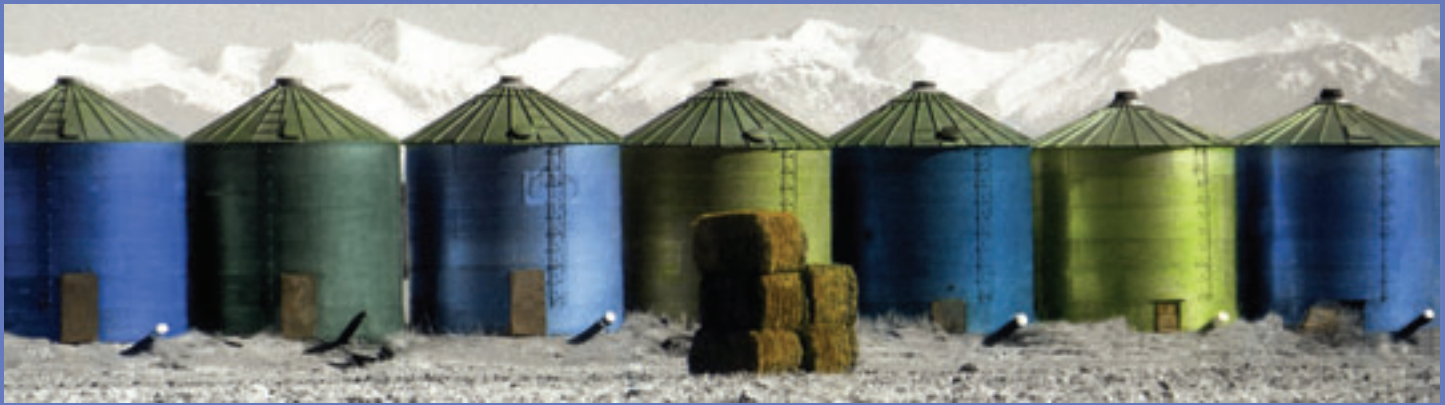
There was another couple that also received a croquet set from the same wedding guests. After their honeymoon, the couple took the mallets and wickets and balls from the box and set up a course on the lawn. The newlyweds read the rules and learned the game. At first, they played the game with just the two of them. Then they invited neighbors to join them for a round. The couple often brought their croquet set to family parties and company picnics. Eventually, they taught their children the game, and the family played again and again on their lawn. The croquet set aged along with the couple and their family. The mallets became worn from handling. The painted balls bore chips and scrapes from years of use. But in another way, the croquet set was absolutely perfect.

faithfact Fruit of the vine

June is a traditional month for weddings. Champagne is a traditional libation of brides and grooms. But did you know that when you sip a flute of bubbly, you taste Catholic tradition? In 1668, at the age of 30, Dom Pierre Perignon took over as cellar master at the Abbey of Hautvilliers. He stated his goal to "make the best wine in the world." Dom Perignon developed the *methode champenoise*, a series of techniques that results in effervescent wine with sparkle. The myth claims that on tasting his creation, the monk cried, "I'm drinking stars." Whatever its origin, champagne caught on, and was part and parcel of King Louis XIV's escapades at Versailles. The decadence led, of course, to the French Revolution — a sobering reminder to imbibe in moderation.

"Sante'!" (That's French for "Health!")





"Harvest"

Photo by Ken Papaleo: highcountrycoloring.com

the way we pray A Prayer for the Wheat

Dear Lord, in many broad fields of this vast country of ours, the wheat is growing now.... Most of it, dear Lord Jesus, will go to feed the hungry. In countless loaves of bread and in cereals it will find its way to tables in city and coun-

try almost all over the world. Some of it will be used at another table. It will be ground into fine flour and used to make the hosts, the altar breads for holy Mass. Priests will take it into their anointed hands and pronounce over it the words of

consecration, and it will cease to be ordinary bread, and will become the Bread of angels....

O Jesus, bless the broad, rich fields of wheat in our whole land. Protect them from hail and beating rains, from blight and rust, from wind-storms and drought. Let them be full and rich, so that the hungry may be fed, and may praise You and thank You as

You deserve. And may all the holy Masses that will be said with hosts made of this wheat hasten the day when at last there will be enough reapers working in Your harvest, which is ripe and ready now, waiting only to be gathered home.

Amen. (Traditionally prayed on the feast of Corpus Christi, June 14) Source: The Rural Life Prayerbook, National Catholic Rural Life Conference

kids corner Fathers of the Church

In June, as we celebrate Father's Day, find and circle the names of 19 Fathers of the Church: Basil, Clement, Ignatius, Justin, Irenaeus of Lyons, Cyprian, Eusebius, Athanasius, Cyril, Gregory Nazianzus, John Chrysostom, Hilary, Ambrose, Maximus, Jerome, Ephrem, Chromatius, Paulinus and Augustine. **Answers: www.graceinaction.org**

T S B I O N L Y O N S E A P V J
J N H G N A I R P Y C U M A E E
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sowing seeds Less is more

"... stewardship requires that many people adopt simpler lifestyles."

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

Sometimes, less really is more. Current economic conditions mean that most — if not all — of us are looking at ways to simplify our lives. When we simplify our lives, we often find we have more time. When we have more time, we find ourselves less rushed. And when we find ourselves less rushed, we tend to be more present in each moment. And when we are present in each moment, we can contemplate and appreciate the gift that life is — day by day, breath by breath.

Do you frequently find yourself rushing? Do you try to cram too much activity into your days to the detriment of your faith life? What one concrete action will you take to simplify your lifestyle?