

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

July 2019

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

Rev. Christopher Frazer, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. Camillus de Lellis

Born in sixteenth-century Italy, St. Camillus aimed for holiness despite serious setbacks. He had a gambling addiction and became known for being argumentative and contentious. After losing his possessions and even his own shirt through gambling, he was hired by some compassionate Franciscans, but later transferred to a Capuchin order. After being ordained a priest, he and some companions founded the order of the Camellians, who cared for the grievously sick, prisoners, and the plague victims.

Keep the parish lights on

No matter where you go this summer, don't forget your parish back home. Your parish depends upon your help to pay the bills even when you're not home.

"See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him" (1 John 3:1).



What are the secrets of stewardship?

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10). Everything we have and all that we are is given to us by God because he loves us and trusts us to be good stewards of his gifts of love.

A good steward receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes them, and returns them to God with interest.

Stewardship flows from love.

The key is to be continually aware of what God has given us and to be deeply grateful. Good stewards know that they didn't earn their talents or resources and understand that they come from

a Father who asks only for true love in return.

Giving feels good. Sharing God's gifts with those

in need, whether it is our time, talents, or

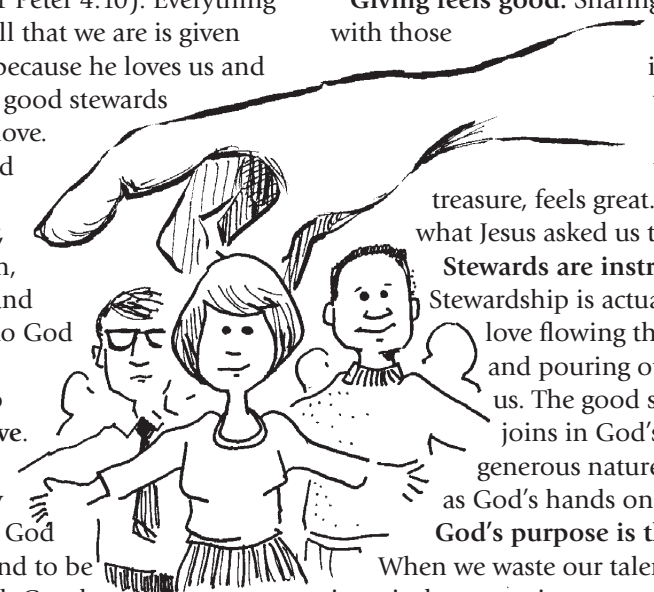
treasure, feels great. And, it's what Jesus asked us to do.

Stewards are instruments.

Stewardship is actually God's love flowing through us and pouring out through us. The good steward joins in God's own generous nature by acting as God's hands on Earth.

God's purpose is the point.

When we waste our talents, dawdle in pointless pursuits, or squander our resources, we put our own desires first ahead of God's will. Good stewards are God-centered rather than self-centered.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

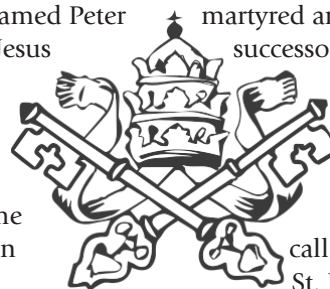
Why do Catholics call Rome "home?"

In Matthew 16, Jesus named Peter "the Rock" upon which Jesus would build his Church (Matthew 16:17-18). After the Ascension, St. Peter traveled to Rome for the Gospel, and became the bishop of the Christian community there. He was

martyred and buried in Rome, and his successors became the next popes.

Historically, the church in Rome proved to be a source of unity, strength, and faithfulness in adversity.

Today, Catholics everywhere call Rome, the resting place of St. Peter, "home."



Celebrate your mistakes

Do you dread making mistakes and beat yourself up when you do? Yet, mistakes are outcomes we didn't expect and can lead to growth.

Step 1 - admit your mistake. You can only learn from a mistake if you admit you made one. As soon as we start blaming others, we miss out on any possible lessons.

Step 2 - enlist help. Talking to someone else about what happened gives you the benefit of your friend's experience. He or she may have made a similar mistake



or know of a way to deal with it. Plus, describing the event helps you to think it through and perhaps see opportunities you didn't know were there.

Step 3 - decide for change. Ask, "What will I do better next time?" Real growth and change happen when you see room for improvement. Then commit to making the necessary changes to avoid the mistake in the future.

Making mistakes doesn't make you a mistake. Remember, God is the only one you know who doesn't make them.

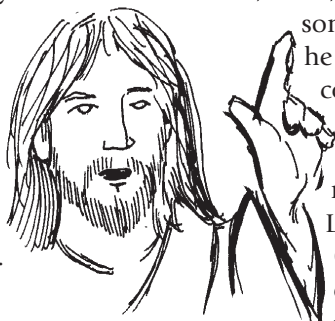
from Scripture

Luke 11:1-13, the perfect prayer

This passage is for anyone who wants to deepen prayer. Here, Jesus teaches his disciples to pray the Our Father. It's actually four prayers in one.

First, it's a prayer of praise and thanksgiving to God. Second, it is a prayer of petition in which we ask God to provide what we need. Third, it is a prayer asking for forgiveness and the strength to be forgiving.

Lastly, it is a prayer of acknowledgement of God's providence. It makes us admit that God knows and wants what is best for us. In choosing to follow God's will, even



when it conflicts with our own, we place our trust in him.

God always answers prayers - usually it's "Yes," "No," or "Wait...I have something better." Also, he wants to know we're committed to what we are requesting. Is it a real need or just a momentary thought?

Like the neighbor in this Gospel reading, Jesus encourages us to be persistent and continue to ask for God's help, seek his will, and be open to his grace in our lives.

Q & A Who can baptize people into the Catholic Church?

A member of the clergy is the ordinary minister of Baptism - a bishop, priest, or deacon. In emergencies, if there isn't a priest present, anyone can baptize, even someone who isn't baptized. In the case of an adult, the person to be baptized must have expressed at some point the desire to become a Catholic. The person baptizing must intend to baptize the person Catholic, and must use water and the words, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."



"The Church finds the reason for this possibility in the universal saving will of God" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC), #1256). The fact that anyone can baptize anyone desiring to become part of the Church is a sign of God's love for us. It speaks of God's infinitely great desire to welcome everyone and anyone into his family. Note: Baptism is received only once. If someone is already a baptized Christian but not Catholic, no second Baptism needed.

Feasts & Celebrations

July 5 - St. Elizabeth of Portugal (1336). The daughter of King Peter III of Aragon, she married King Denis of Portugal, whose infidelity caused her much suffering. He later repented and died a holy death. She became known as "the Peacemaker" for resolving political conflicts. After her husband's death, she became a Franciscan tertiary and lived with the Poor Clares.

July 26 - Saints Joachim and Anne (1st century). Little is known about Jesus' grandparents, but we know Mary was raised in a devout home. Her

unshakeable faith, her devotion to the laws of her religion, and her steadiness in crises indicate the values with which she was raised.

July 29 - St. Martha (1st century). In Luke's Gospel, St. Martha served Jesus dinner, while her sister Mary sat at his feet and listened. At Lazarus's death, she told Jesus, "I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God" (John 11:27).

Because of her faith, Lazarus was brought back to life.



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