



Pastor's Column

St. Peter Catholic Church

September 16, 2018, Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Stewardship: Volunteerism

Pope Saint John Paul the Great outlined a framework for a more systematic, whole-person approach to the seminary formation of candidates for the Catholic priesthood. This framework was centered on what he called the four pillars of priestly formation: Spiritual, Intellectual, Human, and Pastoral. In my own pastoral approach to discipleship formation and my overall ministry, I take this model and apply it to all aspects of parish life, because what we really have here are the four pillars of *Christian* formation, not just *priestly* formation.

The Pastoral pillar of Christian formation is our focus for this week's Stewardship column, because each Catholic Christian (not just the priest or any of the other parish leaders) is called to put our Catholic Christian faith into practice, insofar as each of us needs to embrace anew our universal call to virtue and holiness of life, with particular regard to Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy are readily done in actual activities and ministries that our parishes already do. There is certainly no shortage of need for the ministries that we provide, nor is there a shortage on the part of the parish to want to engage in these ministries. The only shortage is the numbers of volunteers to make these ministry *ideas* into actual ministry *activities*.

Volunteers are who we need, and Catholic volunteerism is truly praiseworthy indeed. Rob McCann, director of Spokane Catholic Charities, has said on a number of occasions that he would rather have a volunteer than a donation any day of the week. It is so much easier to write a check, put it into the mail, and then call it a day than it is actually to invest our own personal selves into another person's life, especially when that other person is someone in need of a ministry that we, the parish, are trying to provide. Treasure is relatively easy to give; try Time or Talent sometime and find out how difficult (not to mention deeply personal) it really is!

And yet as I say, volunteers are who we need, and every potential volunteer (that is, every parishioner of our parish!) is called upon and challenged to rise up, to renew the disciple's embrace of the spirit of volunteerism. Make time this week, therefore, as individuals and as families, to pray and discern how you might volunteer to help make parish ministry *ideas* into actual parish ministry *activity*. And in a particular way, perhaps consider making this the focus of your prayer intention at the Sunday Mass. The Sunday Mass is where discipleship *begins* for many of us, where it is fed and nourished and given new strength, that we may then "go forth" for "the Mass is ended" so as to love and serve God and one another in our lives and in our world.

To that end, and to help emphasize the importance of the Sunday Mass, I have included in this Sunday's bulletin a little list of reasons of why I never take a shower.... I hope that you will get the joke, and I hope that you will also get its meaning.

- Fr. Lewis

REASONS I NEVER ~~GO TO MASS SHOWER~~

1. I WAS FORCED TO SHOWER AS A CHILD.
2. PEOPLE WHO SHOWER ARE HYPOCRITES. THEY THINK THEY ARE CLEANER THAN EVERYONE ELSE.
3. THERE ARE SO MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF SOAP, I COULD NEVER DECIDE WHICH ONE WAS RIGHT.
4. I USED TO SHOWER, BUT IT GOT BORING SO I STOPPED.
5. I SHOWER ONLY ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS, LIKE EASTER AND CHRISTMAS.
6. NONE OF MY FRIENDS SHOWER.
7. I'M STILL YOUNG. WHEN I'M OLDER AND HAVE GOTTEN A BIT DIRTIER, I MIGHT START SHOWERING.
8. I REALLY DON'T HAVE TIME TO SHOWER.
9. THE BATHROOM IS NEVER WARM ENOUGH IN THE WINTER OR COOL ENOUGH IN THE SUMMER.
10. PEOPLE WHO MAKE SOAP ARE ONLY AFTER YOUR MONEY.

(THERE'S MORE)

- I GET ALONG VERY WELL WITHOUT SHOWERING.
- I WORK HARD ALL WEEK AND AM TOO TIRED TO TAKE A SHOWER ON THE WEEKEND.
- THE FIRST BAR OF SOAP I EVER USED GAVE ME A RASH, SO I HAVEN'T GONE NEAR SOAP SINCE