

Stewardship Bulletin Message (November 2013)

"BEING STEWARDS OF TRUTH"

Be not afraid

It has now been ten years since our parish formally adopted the stewardship way of life. During that time, we have been incredibly graced by an understanding of the spirituality of stewardship. We have come to a growing understanding that all that we are and all that we have are gifts from God. In gratitude for these gifts, we have come to experience profound happiness in giving back to God the first portion of our time, talent and treasure to help build the Kingdom of God in Lawrence and beyond.

At the risk of overdoing the alliteration, I think the time is right to add another "T-word" to the list of gifts that good stewards share: "truth".

We live in an age when perhaps more than ever before society in general, and the communications media in particular, are attempting to distort our understanding of truth.

The fundamental truths in life are received from the word of God as recorded in Holy Scripture, the teaching of the Church and the Magisterial teaching authority of our apostolic church. Indeed, Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life." (John 14:6)

Present day culture propagates relativism that holds that there is no such thing as objective or absolute truth, and secularism, which asserts that human activities and decisions should not be influenced by religious teachings.

Today, the communications media proficiently disseminates information - in vast quantities and with lightning speed. The editorial context of delivering that information also forms attitudes, motivates behavior, and shapes public opinion.

Twenty-four hour a day cable television, while reporting the news, also editorializes through a seemingly endless stream of discussions by "talking head" commentators. Their opinions seldom are based on objective truth, but rather reflect their personal views, thoughts and feelings - more often than not cast to reinforce their agendas.

Here are some examples. The abuse of power is written off as "just politics". The deluge of profanity and pornography is defended as "freedom of expression". Greed and the striving for power are identified as "ambition". The killing of the unborn is justified as "a woman's choice with regards to her reproductive health". The lack of discipline in rearing children is asserted to "build their self-esteem". The acceptance of same sex "marriages" is condoned as "the right thing to do". The ridicule of the Church's teachings, the misrepresentation of the Church's intentions for society, and the attempt to diminish the Church's vitality and integrity are called "modern day enlightenment".

Maybe it's time to qualify every broadcast with the statement: "The views and opinions expressed by the participants on the following program are strictly their own and bear absolutely no relationship to objective truth."

What can we do to counteract this deterioration of our culture?

As good stewards who already share our God given gifts of time, talent and treasure, we need to be "stewards of truth", having the courage to publicly proclaim the truth and expose the reality of those who undermine the Church's teachings.

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