



# Marriage under attack

## What have you done for your marriage lately?

It's no secret that the sacred institution of marriage is taking a big hit in our culture these days. High divorce rates, a culture of promiscuity, the proliferation of unsavory internet and TV fare, a movement to remove God and religion from public view, and political controversies over the very definition of marriage—these factors and more threaten the sanctity of marriage and married love.

### Church's initiative on marriage

In response to these assaults on marriage, the U.S. Bishops' Conference has identified marriage as a priority and will continue its intense work through 2011. Their multi-year effort, called the National Pastoral Initiative for Marriage, is designed to help strengthen marriages and promote the value of marriage

in many sectors of our society. In addition to the publication of a recent pastoral letter on marriage, the Conference launched a television ad campaign called "What have you done for your marriage today?" and a new website called For Your Marriage.

### Seven practical tips for married couples

The new website [www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org) (commissioned by the U.S. Catholic Bishops) provides many resources, including insightful and practical advice to married couples, whether in mature or young marriages. The site offers seven suggestions to deepen your marriage relationship. Here is some of the practical advice offered on the website. For more, visit [www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org). (Note the ".org" designation.)

## SEVEN PRACTICAL TIPS FOR MARRIED COUPLES

### 1: Weekly dating

Agree to go out for regular dates—weekly (or monthly at a minimum). It's easy to let life's busyness get in the way, but neglecting to set aside quality time alone to share fun and talk can easily lead to a growing apart. Plan ahead and put your "date night" on the family calendar so it becomes a priority (and a good example for the kids).

Here are some ideas other than the usual "dinner and a movie"—and these are absolutely free!

- **Get out of your comfort zone.** If you're responsible types, do something together that's unexpected or whacky. If you're already the risk-taking type, do something

responsible, like picking up litter at a park or volunteering at a soup kitchen together.

- **Try star gazing** in your own back yard or out in the country. Just take a blanket and gaze upwards together.
- **Go to a public place** (a mall, airport lobby, downtown gathering place) and people watch. Make up stories about the people who pass you, as if you're writing a novel.
- **Rake leaves together**, then lose your inhibitions—make a big pile and jump in.
- **Find an empty, open church.** Explore or let the peace sink in. If you like, discuss your deepest spiritual beliefs afterwards.
- **Have a "Waiter's Night"** and "wait" on your spouse. But be sure to take turns as waiter!

*continued on page 6*

## INDEX

Marriage under attack	1 & 6
Let's automate our offertory giving	2
How will you spend your 40 days of Lent?	3
Let's journey together for justice	4-5
Great Adventures Time Machine	7

# Let's automate our offertory giving

## JOIN THIS WIN-WIN E-GIVING INITIATIVE!

Who hasn't felt frustrated on the way to Mass for forgetting that little offertory envelope? And what do we do then? Most of us intend to "make it up next week." However, numerous studies reveal that usually does not happen--even the most active and conscientious parishioners are only giving about 40 times a year.

Those little memory slips we've all experienced (which significantly decrease our promised revenues to the church) can now be a thing of the past, thanks to an exciting new program. Our new relationship with a company called Faith Direct will simplify our regular giving to the parish and increase much-needed revenues to support the church and our school. This voluntary new way of giving to the church has partially replaced the long-standing tradition of the weekly collection basket for many parishes across the country.

### Win-win option for parishioners

Jim Hogan, a member of our parish Stewardship Committee, researched giving options and recommended a company called Faith Direct, based on their excellent reputation, simplified methods, and amazing results. "It is very clear to me that this is a win-win move for both parishioners and the parish," Hogan comments.

"Once we explored the possibilities, the parish Stewardship Committee recommended Faith Direct, the parish Finance Council endorsed it, and Father Steve approved its use. The program will be implemented in the parish beginning in March of this year."

### Using the latest technology

"This is not our parents' offertory," said W. Brian Walsh, president and founder of Faith Direct, based in Alexandria, Va. "While members of the baby-boomer generation or older may prefer to give with cash, credit or check," Schaefer noted, "younger generations tend to give using debit cards."

"Electronic giving has increased even during the recession because of the consistency," he said. "Even in difficult times, families want to stay committed to their churches, both spiritually and financially."

Father Jan Schmidt, former pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Cincinnati, introduced electronic giving at that

parish. Now pastor at St. Margaret of York in Loveland, OH, Father Schmidt observes: "Typically the people who will utilize this sort of format are the people who really care about the parish. They really think about what they're going to do with their money. They're giving is planned and it's proportionate. Their faith means a lot to them, and they want to give something back."

### Here are the things that impressed the Stewardship Committee and the Finance Council about Faith Direct's services:

- Faith Direct is a highly respected and secure company that is leading the way for parishioners to support their parishes through electronic means.
- Parishes who adopt this program typically enjoy a 30% increase in parish giving.
- The program offers parishioners the choice to support St. Hilary by electing to use direct withdrawal, a debit card or a credit card. Access to your giving account will be totally secure, requiring your unique password.
- Participating parishioners will be able to manage their account online, review their giving, and make changes at any time. You will be able to go on line at the beginning of the year to designate gifts on a weekly or monthly basis and for special collections for the entire year, and then change it online during the year as your circumstances change.
- Even if you are absent from Mass for travel or illness, your commitment to support the parish will be fulfilled.
- Our parish will have predictable cash flow, making financial planning much easier.
- It is simple and free to enroll, either online, by phone or by filling out a form, and commitments are made privately. (Faith Direct will debit your specified account on the 4th business day of the month.)
- All participating parishioners will receive confirmation on their bank or credit card statement and a year-end statement from Faith Direct for tax planning purposes.
- All parishioners who participate will be given special "offertory cards" that can be placed in the collection basket each week at Mass to demonstrate their parish support.
- Costs of printing and mailing envelopes and record-keeping are decreased.
- And Faith Direct's services are guaranteed! If St. Hilary does not realize an increase of at least \$5,500 in offertory by our anniversary date in their program, the company will refund all service fees paid.

**Watch for enrollment information, which will be mailed to your home.  
We hope you will strongly consider joining this "win-win" program!**



FAITH DIRECT

# How will you spend your 40 days of Lent?

## Ideas to deepen your Lenten journey

Lent is traditionally a time devoted to deepening our spiritual awareness through prayer and introspection, personal sacrifice, and almsgiving. Just as Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness to prepare himself for what was to come, we are asked to spend 40 days preparing ourselves to journey with Jesus through his passion, death and resurrection.

**How will you spend your 40 days of Lent?** Since the three themes of Lent are prayer, fasting (or self sacrifice) and care for the poor, here are some wonderful ideas to help enrich your Lenten journey.

### PRAYER JOURNEY

**Evening Prayer**, Wednesdays 7:00 to 7:30 pm

**Stations of the Cross**, Fridays 7:00 to 7:30 pm

**Faith Alive Retreat**, Friday and Saturday,  
March 5th, 6:00 to 10:00 pm & 6th, 7:30 am to 6:00 pm

**Adoration**, Wednesdays 10:30 am to 8:30 pm

**Daily Mass**, 7:00 and 9:30 am

**Rosary Ministry**, 8:35 am weekdays

**Word Alive Youth Bible Study**, Wednesdays 7:00 to 8:30 pm (for high school students)

**Zen/Christian Meditation** (will move to Monday during Lent) 7:30 to 8:30 pm

**Charismatic Prayer Group**, Tuesdays, 7:00 to 9:00 pm

**Prayer resources:** To aid in your prayer and reflection, there will be prayer resources in the kiosks at the back of the Church and in the Gathering Area.

### FASTING OR SELF SACRIFICE JOURNEY:

This is the personal part of Lent. Here are two ideas.

- Journey with those impacted by the economic downturn. In light of the current economic climate, are we being called to live simply to allow others to simply live?
- Journey with the RCIA catechumens and candidates, who will be received into the Catholic Faith at the Easter Vigil. Get to know who they are, look at their pictures in the Gathering Area, and pray for them as they journey towards being received into the Church.

### CARE FOR THE POOR:

- Be generous in donations to St Vincent de Paul. (Use green envelope in envelope packet.)
- Help with Catholic Worker Ministry meals. (Contact Clark Hosick at 330-867-7751)
- Volunteer with St. Bernard Hot Meal program. (Contact Trish Goodin at 330-294-1030).
- Help with CYO's Hot Meal program. (Contact Pat Kennedy at 330-715-2496).
- Bake cookies for the Cookie Ministry which supports the St. Bernard Bag Lunch program.
- Donate laundry detergent for Open-M.





# Let's Journey Together FOR JUSTICE

## St. Hilary Hosts Lenten Lecture Series

*Join your fellow parishioners on Wednesday evenings during Lent for a light soup supper and evening prayer, followed by interesting speakers who will challenge us to find new ways to deal with the world we live in.*

John Grossmann, Co-Chair of St. Hilary's Social Justice Committee, shares insights into the committee's selection of topics and speakers. "We see this speaker series as a time to wrestle with the fundamental message of Jesus—to love God and love our neighbor. And since the love of neighbor is the way to God, how are we to respond to the world in which we find ourselves today? As our country has transitioned from a geographically close-knit society to a much more diverse culture, we have a new view of the larger world in which we live.

### Love, justice and the common good

"When our world is small, love and charity and justice are easier to understand and implement," John continues. "As our awareness increases and we find ourselves more and more connected to our community, our city, our nation and our world, how do we translate the message of love of neighbor into our larger world view? Pope Benedict teaches us that justice is a key constituent of love and charity. Without justice, love is just a word. What then do we do when we see institutions that need to be changed so elements of justice and the common good can prevail? These concerns touch governments, schools, businesses, the church, and even relationships between nations, as we examine the common good versus our personal good.

"Lent is the perfect time to look not only at ourselves, but at our society, our institutions, and our world. I hope parishioners will consider this speaker series as a retreat designed to sharpen our focus on the

fundamental principles of love, justice, the protection of human life and the life of our planet, and achieving the common good.

### The Ways of Charity

"Our parish Social Justice Committee chose speakers and topics for this Lenten Speakers Series that would focus on these principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Our series begins on Wednesday February 17 with Sr. Mary McCormick, OSU, Ph.D. Sr. McCormick has a great ability to present theological issues in practical, down-to-earth terms. She will speak about the complexities of the world today and of Pope Benedict XVI's recent encyclical, *Charity in Truth*. She will delve into the Pope's teachings on love and charity from the current world perspective. Issues include the common good, human development, the environment, peace building, and the human family.

### The Principles of Catholic Teaching in Action

"Our second speaker, on Wednesday, February 24, is Tom Allio who will discuss how we can put the principles of Catholic social teaching into action. In his position as Diocesan Social Action Director for the Diocese of Cleveland for the last 22 years, Tom and his team have worked to implement the social teachings of the church and make changes in human systems that are no longer reflective of these principles. For example, current efforts to clamp down on fly-by-night predatory lenders have been successful. Tom will look at institutional issues and what we can do to make a difference—how we can make a difference to build a more loving

and just society, especially for the poor and disadvantaged. The message is that we can make a remarkable difference, as has been demonstrated throughout history.

### Lessons from Rwanda

"Our third speaker, Fr. Mike Denk, on Wednesday, March 3, will share the insights he learned during his time in Rwanda, where the pitting of one tribe against another resulted in tragic genocide. What are the lessons we can learn from this? Scapegoating between groups, as was done in Hitler's Germany, is often seen during times of economic crisis. The weakest and most innocent groups can be targeted, as are the unborn in the tragedy of abortion. Such lessons from our own human experience and from recent history should keep us alert to other such tragic occurrences in our own time.

### Civility in Catholic Discourse

"Our final speaker, Father Donald Cozzens, Ph.D. will help us explore ways in which we can have civil discourse with people who hold views opposite from our own. In our world, we see a tendency to demonize others because of their positions on various issues. In such cases, when we are confronted with intense anger and even rage—our own or others—how can we engage in respectful, meaningful dialogue without compromising our own values? If we do not find ways to do this now, we are in danger of pulling down the fabric of our society. This inability to engage in civil discourse impacts not only the political world, but spills over into many aspects of our daily lives."

## THE SERIES

**February 17th:**

Sister Mary McCormick: *The Ways of Charity* (Benedict XVI's "Charity in Truth")

**February 24th:**

Tom Allio: *The Principles of Catholic Teaching in Action: (Leaven in Society; Salt and Light to the World)*

**March 3rd:**

Father Michael Denk: *Lessons from Rwanda* (A discussion of the Rwandan genocide and its relationship with abortion and scapegoating.)

**March 10th:**

Father Dr. Don Cozzens: *Civility in Catholic Discourse* (How can we address hot button issues without anger and even rage?)

## The Evening Schedule

(Come for all or part)

Note: Soup supper and presentations will be held in the Gathering Area

6:15 pm: Soup Supper  
(except for Ash Wednesday, February 17th, when Mass will be held at 6:30 pm)

7:00 pm: Evening Prayer  
(except for Ash Wednesday – Mass at 6:30 pm)

7:30 pm: Presentation

9:00 pm: Closure

## ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS

### Sister Mary McCormick, OSU, Ph.D.

Sister Mary McCormick is an Ursuline Sister of Youngstown. A native of Youngstown, OH, she graduated from Youngstown State University (BS in Ed, 1978), Duquesne University (MA in Theology, 1986), and Loyola University of New Orleans (MRE-Religious Education, 1991). She earned a Ph.D. in Contemporary Systematic Theology from Fordham University in the Bronx, NY, in 2001.

Sister Mary is Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at St. Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology in the Diocese of Cleveland, a position she has held since 1997. Other ministry assignments have included eight years of high school teaching; four years as School Consultant for Religious Education in the Diocese of Youngstown; Pastoral Ministry at St. Mary Parish, Conneaut, OH; as well as vocation and formation work for the Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown. In addition, Sr. Mary currently serves on the Leadership Team of the Ursuline Sisters.

### Thomas J. Allio, Jr.

Tom Allio serves the Secretariat for Catholic Charities Health and Human Services in a dual capacity. For the past 22 years, he has served as the Diocesan Social Action Director for the Diocese of Cleveland. For the last 32 years, he has served as Executive Director of the Catholic Commission - Summit, which is involved in advocacy on the local, state, and national levels, community development, and social justice education.

On the national level, Tom served two years as the chair of the Roundtable, a national association of Catholic Diocesan Social Action Directors and two years as chair of the Catholic Conference of Ohio, Social Concerns Department, the Ohio Bishop's public policy arm. For 31 years, Tom has been a writing consultant for several pastoral letters issued by the Ohio Bishops, as well as the Ordinary of the Diocese of Cleveland. He also served former Governor Bob Taft as a member of the Governor's Faith Based Initiative Board.

### Fr. Michael J. Denk

Fr. Michael Denk was ordained for the diocese of Cleveland on May 12, 2007. He is currently serving his first assignment at St. Barnabas Parish in Northfield, OH. Fr. Michael received a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts from St. Mary Seminary in Wickliffe, OH. His thesis was entitled *Christology in the Mystics: Coming to Know, Love, and Serve Christ through John the Evangelist, Theresa of Avila, and Ignatius of Loyola*. He received a Bachelors Degree in Communications, with a specialization in Video and Audio Production from Cleveland State University in 2001

Fr. Michael works with the youth in his parish and enjoys the "Connections" group, which is for young married couples in the parish. He is a member of Catholic Relief Services™ Global Fellows Program and is devoted to the poor, especially in Africa and El Salvador. He has traveled to Madagascar and Rwanda with Catholic Relief Services.

### Father Donald Cozzens, Ph.D.

Donald Cozzens is Writer in Residence and Adjunct Professor of Religious Studies at John Carroll University in Cleveland. He spent the 2001-2002 academic year as a scholar at the Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research at St. John's University in Collegeville, MN, where he studied the dynamics of institutional denial.

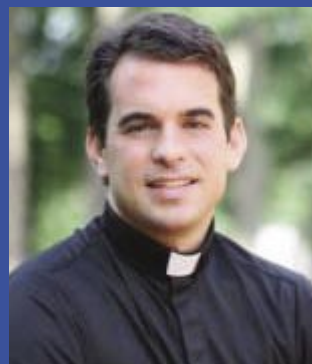
A priest of the Diocese of Cleveland, Cozzens has served as spiritual director, counselor, and retreat master for monks, nuns, priests, and bishops. His doctoral research focused on the philosophical anthropology of the Lutheran philosopher and theologian, Paul Tillich. He served as the vicar for the clergy and as president-rector of Cleveland's Saint Mary Seminary. Fr. Cozzens has written best-selling and award-winning books, including *Faith that Dares to Speak* and *The Changing Face of the Priesthood*.



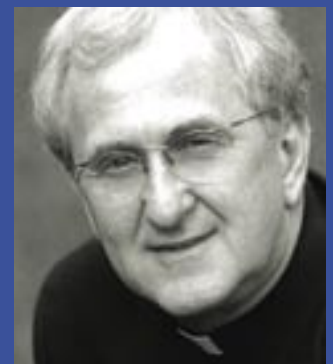
Sr. Mary McCormick,  
OSU, Ph.D.



Thomas J. Allio, Jr.



Fr. Michael J. Denk



Fr. Donald Cozzens, Ph.D.

**2: Improve your relationship skills** by taking one of these ten insightful and fun Marriage Quizzes offered on [www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org).

- Are You Soul-Mates or Divided Spirits?
- Are We Intellectually Compatible?
- Is It Creative Play Time or Wasted Time?
- Sexual Compatibility is Not Always About Sex
- Do You Operate in Different Marital Time Zones?
- How Well Do You Know Your Spouse's Past?
- Do You Make Good Travel Companions?
- Is Your Marriage Financially Sound?
- Can you read your spouse's moods?
- Are you walking with the same moral compass?

**3: Draw up your 2010 household budget together.** Discuss spending priorities, including charitable donations. Read the website's advice on Finances. Here are a few tidbits.

**Do financial problems cause divorce?**

Not necessarily! A study by Jason Carroll of Brigham Young University looked at 600 couples from across the nation. Carroll found that "financial problems are as much a result of how we think about money as how we spend it."

**What's your spending personality?**

Talk about your different ways of spending money and the different values that may underlie your financial decisions. Is one of you thrifty and the other a spendthrift? Work on good communication and try to strike a healthy balance. Go to counseling if it's too difficult to talk about it on your own. And let the detail-oriented person keep the books!

**What's your shopping style?**

What kind of shopper are you—Utilitarian, Laissez-faire, Bargain Hunter, Recreational, or a Shopping Therapy shopper? (Go to [www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org) to help define each other.) If you have very different shopping personalities, don't try to shop together.

**Is it ever better to have less money?**

Financial responsibility is not just about making money and spending it or saving it. It also includes giving it away – to religious institutions, charities or our neighbors in need.

**4: Set aside a regular time each week to pray together.** Why bother? As you probably know, 46-48% of marriages end in divorce. But for couples who worship together each Sunday, only about 20% divorce. For couples who also regularly pray together at home, marital stability is even greater.

Try couple prayer! There is a certain intimacy and vulnerability that comes from opening your heart to God in the presence of your spouse. There is no wrong way to pray, and the desire to try is prayer in itself. Decide on a time, a place and how often you will do it, then commit to doing it—together!

There are many styles of prayer to choose from—memorized prayers, reflective reading, writing in journals, saying the Rosary, meditating on a spiritual theme, reading scripture, etc. Of course, do it together then talk about it. Here's a good resource: [www.livingfaith.com](http://www.livingfaith.com)

**5: Resolve to read at least one book on how to strengthen your relationship.** The website lists many recommended books on marriage. Go to the website to browse the titles and read reviews. Examples: *The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work* by John M. Gottman

**6: Dust off your religious education.** Read a brief summary of what the church teaches about marriage. What is marital spirituality? See About Catholic Marriage/Catholic Beliefs and read the Bishops Pastoral Letter on marriage on the website to explore the Catholic vision of marriage.

**7: Marriage is considered a sacrament of service**—not just for the couple but for the good of their family, as well as for the community and the Church. Resolve to do at least one service activity this year, as a family or as a couple. Examples: take canned goods to the local food pantry on a regular basis or help out with a parish fundraising project.

photos courtesy of Carol Malick

**Fr. Steve attends marriage conference**

As part of the Church's national initiative on Marriage, Pastor Father Steve Brunovsky recently attended a large Convocation on Marriage in Cincinnati, attended by hundreds of priests and Bishops from across Ohio. Father observes: "Conference speakers discussed the Pastoral Letter written by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, including the issues of divorce, cohabitation, same-sex marriage and contraception. They also explored the goals of the Bishop's national initiative on marriage, including encouraging activities to strengthen marriages in all U.S. Dioceses."

**Blessing of Marriages at St. Hilary**

Father Steve announces: "The Blessing of Marriages will be performed during all of our Masses on the weekend of February 13 and 14—appropriately that's Valentines weekend! All married couples will be invited to receive the Marriage Blessing. I also hope that our married parishioners will consider attending a marriage program, such as a Marriage Encounter Weekend, to strengthen their marriage communication." (For information on Marriage Encounter, go to [worldwideME@sbcglobal.net](mailto:worldwideME@sbcglobal.net). For general information and to find retreats in our area, go to [www.wvme.org/](http://www.wvme.org/). The next Marriage Encounter in our area will be February 13-15 at the Cambria Suites in Green, Ohio. Call 330-305-9963 or e-mail [worldwideME@sbcglobal.net](mailto:worldwideME@sbcglobal.net).

**Plan to have your marriage blessed on Valentines weekend** and be sure to visit [www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org) to explore the many interesting resources, tips and quizzes for married couples!



# “Great Adventures” Time Machine

and visit Powerful Priests Past & Present!

Sunday, Feb. 21, 2010, 12:15 to 2:30

Don't miss this adventure of several lifetimes!

Enjoy Italian fare fit for a Pope.

Climb aboard the fantastic galactic time-traveling ship,  
Great Adventures, and brace yourself for the “Gotta See Odyssey!”

Go to France, India, Italy and North America all in one afternoon!

**It's fantastic fun for the whole family!**

**Register at warp speed!**

**Our traveling time machine can only seat 100!**



---

## MEET MIGHTY MEN OF GOD:

- St. Francis Xavier
  - St. Isaac Jogues
  - St. John Bosco
  - St. Maximilian Kolbe
- 

Discover our “Mystery Priest” and the exciting life of a priest today,  
and how you can share in the very priesthood of Jesus!

12:15 Lunch (from St. John Bosco's Italy)

1:00 Board the Great Adventures Time Machine to Meet Priests  
of the Past - St. John Bosco, St. Isaac Jogues, St. Maximilian  
Kolbe, St. Francis Xavier. Return to St. Hilary to Meet “Mystery  
Priest” of the Present

2:30 Closing Prayer

**Completed registration form &  
payment must be received by  
Monday, Feb. 15th.**

(See form online at [www.sthilarychurch.org](http://www.sthilarychurch.org)  
or watch for forms in the bulletin.)

Return by mailing to St. Hilary Parish,  
2750 W. Market St., Fairlawn, OH  
44333 or drop at Parish Office or  
Adventures in Faith table after Mass,  
Feb 7th.

Free child care beginning at 12:15  
for children under 3

Pre-K class for children 3-5  
begins after lunch.

Cost: \$5/person  
Family of 4 or more \$20

Make checks payable to:  
St. Hilary Parish. (Financial Assistance  
is available.) Contact the Parish Office:  
(330) 867-1055

February 2010

St HILARY  **Live!**

St. Hilary Catholic Parish  
2750 West Market Street  
Fairlawn, OH 44333-4236

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**  
AKRON, OH  
PERMIT NO.373



**Have your marriage  
blessed at Mass on  
Valentines weekend,  
February 13 - 14.**

### INSIDE:

Marriage under attack

Let's automate our offertory giving

How will you spend your 40 days of Lent?

Let's journey together for justice

Great Adventures Time Machine

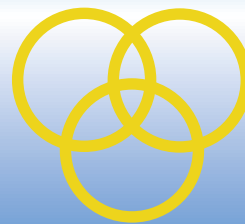
This Newsletter is brought to you  
by the Stewardship Committee at  
St HILARY PARISH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
2750 West Market Street  
Fairlawn, OH 44333-4236  
Phone: 330-867-1055  
Fax: 330-869-2312  
eMail: [church@sthilarychurch.org](mailto:church@sthilarychurch.org)  
Web: [www.sthilarychurch.org](http://www.sthilarychurch.org)

Have feedback on this newsletter?  
Contact Lyn Schott at 330-867-1055

Karen Moran, Writer

©2008 St. Hilary Parish All rights reserved.

*Characteristics of a  
Christian Steward*



**MAKE THIS LENTEN SEASON  
A TRUE JOURNEY WITH JESUS  
THROUGH HIS PASSION, DEATH  
AND RESURRECTION.**