

SHARON'S BEST OF ICSC 2023: *Eucharistic Stewardship - Responding with Grateful Hearts*

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St. Laurence Team: Suzanne Byrne, Sharon Ehrenkranz, Belinda Maldonado, Michelle Cashiola, Edward Young

Sunday Mass Homily: Bishop John Noonan (Bishop of Orlando)

- Vatican II and the Synodal Church activity is to **renew Church's missionary nature**
- This is nothing new – the Church has been renewed over the centuries
- Vatican II: JP2 “architect,” Benedict “engineer,” Francis “surveyor” preparing the site for building
- Hope is not empty optimism – hope & trust are nurtured in conscience with God
- SYNOD – let us build our Church on the message of Jesus – do not be afraid, always hope

Opening Plenary: Bishop James Golka (Bishop of Colorado Springs)

“I am fascinated by Jesus Christ.”

- Have same attitude/mind of Jesus (me personally and the Church)
- Jesus emptied himself (kenosis); His life didn't belong to him – it's the only way the Cross makes sense
- Don't be too upset when life is difficult – it's a way to grow closer to Him

We are Stewards of the Eucharist

- Presider helps us enter into mystery – “lift up your hearts”
- Where earth and heaven kiss – 90% of reality is invisible – we need to embrace the mystery
- Through Him, with Him, in Him – we are now in the midst of the Trinity!
- After that, we stand and speak directly to God in the words that Jesus gave us
- Our textbook is the Bible and our school is the Mass

IDEA: Birthday Giveaway

- Instead of receiving birthday gifts (it's all about me), the birthday child gives gifts to each person attending
- When you give something away, you act like God – when you act like God, you get to FEEL like God
- Give away the gift – it's not ours to keep – but after it's been shared 7 times, you can keep it
- God has given us a gift that doesn't belong to us – GIVE IT AWAY

IDEA: Loop of Grace/Pay It Forward

- Begin the loop – act like God and give it away
- EXPECT it in others – inspire them and they will do the same

SESSION 3: Bishop Andrew Cozzens (Bishop of Crookston) – Importance of National Eucharistic Revival

- Focus on HEART of the Revival – what does this look like in me?
- Pope Francis (*Desiderio Desideravi* 5): Everyone is invited to the supper of the wedding of the Lamb
- Pope Francis (*Desiderio Desideravi* 5): Christian faith either an encounter with Him alive, or it doesn't exist.
- John 1:38-39: COME AND SEE – **John records the hour because that is when his life was changed**
- Encounter is:
 - 1) Realization that Jesus is God (Lk 5)
 - 2) Realization that I am a sinner (Peter: Leave me, Lord, I'm a sinful man)
 - 3) Realization that I am infinitely loved (Jesus doesn't leave him, he invites him)
 - 4) I am invited to follow him in a new life
- Pope Benedict: The organ for seeing God is the heart

IDEA: Small group study on Jesus in the Eucharist (Augustine Institute?) for Advent or Lent

SESSION 12: Fr. Tim LaBo (Orlando) – Collaborative Approach to Parish Leadership

LMX = Leader-Member Exchange Theory

- It is not all about the leader, but IN THE RELATIONSHIP between the leader and those being led
- Dyadic relationships (relationships between two) are most effective
- The better the relationship, the more effective the communication

Negotiating latitude – give people ability to bring ideas and try new things, lead together, dialogue, listen

EI = Emotional Intelligence

- I am aware of others' emotions and allow for them
- What are their gifts, passions, strengths, contributions and how can I encourage them to use their gifts?

SESSION 23: Fr. Joe Creedon – Symbiotic Relationship of Eucharist and Stewardship

- "People believing in True Presence is a bigger issue than who should get communion and who shouldn't"
- "God so loved the world that He sent his only Son, not a committee."
- First millennium focused on WHY we believe, and in second millennium HOW He is present
- Our Eucharistic communities are in trouble (only 17% go to Mass) – why?
 - 1) Threat of going to hell no longer exists
 - 2) World is in a post-Christian era – secularism, hedonism, consumerism
 - 3) Humanities are gone – focus on learning is STEM and efficiency
 - 4) Poor liturgies
 - 5) COVID
- "If you want a good parish, put your time in the homily, money in music and shoes at the door."
- "Community is not just a noun, it's a verb."
- MASS = gather, confess, praise, learn, bless, break, share, take, give, receive, eat, send forth... (exhausting!)
- Eucharist is TRANSFORMATIVE – turns us into what we receive
- "Not 'Lord hear our prayers' – it's prayer – we are a community and it is our prayer."
- RE: Recorded Masses: "Tune in tomorrow and watch me eat my turkey dinner. It demeans the Eucharist."
- Stewardship also a verb (receive, develop, share, return) – what practice more than Eucharist conveys this
- We are all BAPTIZED – stewardship invites us to take ownership – "you are not Father's helpers"
- Liturgy engages baptized into ACTION of the Church (greet, read, music, offerings, celebrate, straighten up)
- Yes, the bread and wine are changed, but WE are changed!
- "The Liturgical Year should not go round and round, but deeper and deeper."

SESSION 31: Dan Misleh – Implementing Laudato Si in the Parish: For Youth, the Future and Energy Savings

catholicclimatecovenant.org

- Why young people are leaving the Church:
 - 1) Pandemic
 - 2) Relevancy to their lives
 - 3) Church not embracing their concerns
 - 4) Lack of opportunities and activities
 - 5) Church seems antagonistic to science (72% of those unaffiliated believe in evolution)
- 89% of young people worried about climate change (Gen Z identifies climate change as most important)
- Are we apart from Creation, rather than part of Creation? (Laudato Si – everything is connected)
- COMMON GOOD is at the core of Catholic Social Teaching – we need to be concerned about one another
- "The gravest effects of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest." (Pope Francis)

- If the universe time equaled 24 hours, humans would show up 4 seconds before midnight
- In the beginning... our bodies contain 10% hydrogen, we are made out of the universe
- As humans we have learned and now know this – that’s incredible – our dog doesn’t know this! What right do we have to eliminate or not care enough to protect all life on earth?
- **IDEAS:** What we can do and resources
 - Parish Creation Care Team – mobilize youth and young adults
 - Laudato Si Action Platform – 7 years to achieve 7 objectives
 - Catholic Energies – help Catholic parishes install solar
 - Catholic Climate Action Projects – helps self-fund environmental projects
- Poet John O’Donahue (Walking In Wonder) – When we come into the eternal world we won’t so much be checked for our failures, but we will be asked whether we honored the possibilities that were placed inside us when we were so carefully fashioned out of clay.

SESSION 41: Leisa Anslinger – Building a Culture of Stewardship that Engages All Ages

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- How we shape parish culture – “the air that we breathe”
 - 1) Vision – importance of knowing our WHY, always aspirational, why we do what we do
 - 2) Principles – discipleship, stewardship, gratitude – these drive behavior, attitude, leadership, values
 - 3) Values – every person is called, no “insiders/outsideers”
 - 4) Strengths – what is it that we do well
- HOSPITALITY = reverence for one another, empathy for young people
- **FORMATION** = consider transition points (confirmation, marriage prep, baptism prep, empty nesters)
- LEADERSHIP = servant leadership (leaders eat last, but leaders GO first), widen the circle
- **IDEA:** Social Justice Ministry highlights hot topic each month

BONUS #1: Leisa Anslinger – WHY, HOW, WHAT: A Framework for Stewardship Impact

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- How Great Leaders Inspire Action (Ted Talk by Simon Sinek)
- Our brains are hardwired to want to know why – it’s beyond words
- Our WHY is who we are when we are at our natural best.
- STEWARDSHIP: We’re never going to get there, but we need to know where we are aiming.
- Ask regularly: *What is that special something about St. Laurence? How does stewardship make a difference?*
- It’s not always about MORE – perhaps it’s DEEPER
- Everyone has a specific gift to share – if we don’t use it, something is missing in the world
- Parish life matters – form a “spirituality of communion” – warm is the new cool
- Be discerning: Where are we now? What are we called to do? What are our next steps?

Tuesday Mass Homily: Bishop Donald Hanshon (Bishop Emeritus of Detroit)

- I don’t have bills to pay – I have parishioners who have a great need to respond to God’s greatness.
- Zec 8 (First Reading) – Let us go with you for we have heard God is with you – this is heart of ICSC!
- First reading (invitation), gospel (rejection), Jesus’ response (gently move on)
- Pope Francis – Confirmation is not like graduation, it’s more like being drafted – marching orders
- Bishop played his ukulele and sang “This Little Light of Mine” in English and Spanish