

Stewardship of Time & Talent

“Fishers of Men”

September 25 & 26 2010

{Polly} Good [morning, afternoon, evening], We are Polly and David White. We have been asked to speak today on stewardship, specifically regarding time and talent. The theme this year is “Fishers of Men”. Our journey at Good Shepherd began with the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults as candidates and now we serve as RCIA team members. Figuratively the RCIA team and you, Good Shepherd members, “fished” us out of the world.

{David} My journey toward embracing the Catholic Faith and learning to become a “good steward” began with an assignment I gave to a group of children at work. I asked them “Who is your hero?” Their answers didn’t surprise me. Most responded with entertainers or sports figures. That night I began to reflect on who my hero might be.

By the grace of God, Mother Teresa’s image came into my mind and heart. Soon the Blessed Mother became my inspiration and mentor. Being a professional Social Worker and Counselor this seemed like a good fit.

However, I continued to be overwhelmed by all the pain and suffering I saw on a daily basis. My talent seemed to be helping no one. Something was missing. Then I read a quote from Mother Teresa that changed my life – “Do little things with great love.” It was Mother Teresa’s love of our Lord, her life of prayer and devotion and the taking care of the poorest of the poor that inspired me to join the Catholic Church.

When I informed Polly what I was thinking she was in disbelief. But, by the grace of God she agreed to join the RCIA program at Good Shepherd with me. I believe that I’m called to be a witness to Christ in all circumstances. This of course is not easy and is a constant struggle. But, for now, I’m trying to keep it “simple”. So when God calls (and He does) I’m learning to say “yes”. As my hero taught me, put God first and then generosity will flow.

{Polly} I reluctantly attended RCIA for David, but within a few meetings our RCIA team had me interested, had me understanding my faith in ways I previously had not, had me wanting to know more. I

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could see the RCIA leaders deeply believed and practiced what they were teaching. I had been caught hook, line and sinker.

Our life, like everyone else's, is very busy. We wanted to be involved but were not sure how we were going to “fit” it all in. We often prayed about it both together and privately. God delivered. We had already decided to attend the Great Bible Adventure; helping out as table facilitators would “fit” right in. This was something that not only met our thirst for learning the Word and Catechism but combined it with stewardship. We were honored when asked to be sponsors for new RCIA candidates. We knew how to be sponsors - our sponsors had been magnificent examples and “fishermen”. God humbled us when we were asked to be on the RCIA team. Once again God delivered, combining our time, talent and inspiration all into one. We could “fit” this into our life.

The Catechism has taught me, “To teach in order to lead others to faith is the task of every believer.” Well, we have a whole church full of believers. You have all been our Fishers of Men and we thank you. We thank the RCIA team that made the Word come alive for us. We thank our sponsors for their love and guidance. We thank the Bible Study team for helping us learn the Word of God. The gifts we can give are endless and God never fails to help us “fit” it into our lives and keep it simple.

You may also wonder how you can be more involved in stewardship. Please attend the Ministry Fair after Mass in the Community Center and discover ways that you can share your gifts with others. Last year when we attended we found that we were able to “fit” in providing food to the homeless shelter, delivering Meals on Wheels on Thanksgiving and sponsoring a Christmas Angel. We all have gifts and God will “fit” it into our life. Come find out more about our ministries here at Good Shepherd!!