

Commitment to Re-Allocate

CONCEPT

Set up a giving account. Put a certain amount of money each week into this account. Then make your charitable contributions from that account. Practitioners of this method find it particularly rewarding to make allocations from this account around Thanksgiving and Christmas. They find it helps them focus on the true meaning of those holidays.

BENEFITS

"I've never met anyone who practiced tithing who also identified their personal finances as being a major stress point in their life. It didn't matter if they were wealthy or of modest means." —Bruce Howard, chairman/professor of business economics, Wheaton College

Living as a good steward of your time and money will give you a purpose in life that you had been seeking.

Intense joy comes to those who take the risk to live as Christian stewards.

"If you take control of your giving and make it an essential part of your budget, you get to feel good about yourself."
—Personal Finance Columnist, Michelle Singletary

"The Gospel is full of recommendations for a moderate, even poor life. If we Catholics want to follow the Gospel, we must each ask ourselves if our life corresponds in some way to it – and then draw the conclusions."

—Bishop Van Luyn of Rotterdam

QUESTIONS

How did you do at cutting back on your discretionary spending? How did you allocate the money saved?

To what or to whom did you give the time you saved by limiting TV watching, computer games, etc?

ACTION STEPS

- Before you buy anything, ask yourself if it is something you really need.
- Use credit only when buying something that will increase in value.
- When possible, choose charitable events as your entertainment – go to a benefit dinner or school spring fundraiser. You get a nice dinner out and the charity benefits!
- Be a good steward of your assets; put together a will or trust.
- Acquire adequate life insurance.
- Save adequate \$\$ for a rainy day.
- Set aside adequate \$\$ for retirement

Congratulations to *Mitchell Hieserich* and his family as Mitchell receives the Body and Blood of our Lord for the first time this Sunday! Please keep all of our First Communicants and their families in your prayers as they continue to grow in faith and love!

Is gambling a problem for you or a loved one?

In the world today compulsive gambling, an emotional illness, has become a problem of menacing proportions. People in the grip of this compulsion know misery and despair. Is gambling a problem for you or a loved one? If so, there is hope and help available. Gamblers Anonymous meets on Sunday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 pm or on Friday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 pm at the St. Cloud Hospital Conference Center (1406 Sixth Avenue North, St. Cloud) and on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 pm at the Central Minnesota Mental Health Center (1321 13th Street North, St. Cloud). In addition, GAM-Anon, for the family and friends of those affected, meets Friday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 pm at the St. Cloud Hospital Conference Center (1406 Sixth Avenue North, St. Cloud). For more information, please contact Rick (Gamblers Anonymous) at 320-290-1314 or Jan (GAM-Anon) at 320-290-1315.

Activity Night at Cathedral High School

Cathedral High School Student Senate is hosting an Activity Night Saturday May 15 from 6:00 to 10:00 pm in the North Gym and outside in the "pit." All 7th through 8th grade student who are attending Cathedral/John XXIII/SPPM and/or 6th graders who will be attending John XXIII/SPPM next year are invited. The activities include a cookout, games in the gym and outside in the pit, a dance and an outdoor movie, *The Blind Side*. There is no cost. If you have questions or if you are able to chaperone please contact Bill Joyce at 257-2117.

Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto Pilgrimage

May is the month of Mary. Over the past 100 years since Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto was built on the monastery grounds, many Sisters, college students and town dwellers have said, "Let's walk to the grotto." Come to the Gathering Place at Saint Benedict's Monastery and join us on Wednesday, May 12 at 6:30 pm for an evening pilgrimage, led by Sr. Josue Behnen, to the grotto where we will sing and pray together, reflect on Mary's own pilgrimages, tell the story of Lourdes, bless the new statue of St. Bernadette (shipped here from Italy) and pray for our own healing and the healing of our church and world. The event will end with refreshments at the Spirituality Center. There is no charge. This is a great family event!