Stewardship Messages for Easter to Pentecost April 1 to May 20

April 1 Easter Sunday

"Think of what is above, not of what is on earth." Colossians 3:2

On this day, we thank God for His Son, Jesus, who died and rose for us. We celebrate with joy. We sing "Alleluia!" Let us try to keep the spirit and enthusiasm of the Easter season in our hearts throughout the year – not just on this day and the few weeks to follow. Let us pray and listen for how the Lord is calling each of us to joyfully use our gifts in his honor.

April 7/8, 2018

Second Sunday of Easter

"The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own ..." Acts 4:32

All that we are and all that we have are all gifts from God. Your family, your friends, your talents, your talents, your abilities – they are all gifts from God. We are not really owners of anything. We are merely "stewards" of the gifts God has given to us.

April 14/15, 2018

Third Sunday of Easter

"While they were still speaking about this, Jesus stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." But they were startled and terrified ..." Luke 4:36-37

We have many opportunities each day to either "see the face of Jesus in others" or "be the face of Jesus to others." Do we take the opportunity to fully see His face and to truly be His face? Or are we afraid to do so?

"I am the good shepherd and I know mine and mine know me ... and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice ..." John 10:14-16

Do you only ask Jesus for things that you want when you pray? What about what He wants from you? Do you ask? How do you listen to and hear His response? Very often the answers come in quiet whispers that are usually heard if you actively listen for His response.

April 28/29, 2018

Fifth Sunday of Easter

"Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth." 1 John 3:18

Do you "walk the talk" when it comes to the Catholic faith? Do your actions reflect what it means to be a good disciple? Do you *participate* in Mass and join in parish ministry? Do you support your parish and other Church needs generously? If not, this might be a good time to start.

May 5/6, 2018

Sixth Sunday of Easter

"This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:12-13

Do you love Jesus – and consider Him your friend? Jesus says that if we love Him, we would be willing to offer whatever we have to Him. We would not make these offerings because we want praise or recognition, but only because we love Him. Do you give of your time and resources because of obligation or do you share because of love?

May 12/13, 2018

Ascension of the Lord

"Whoever acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him and he in God." 1 John 4:15

When you have the opportunity to defend or clarify a question about the Catholic faith, do you do it, or do you remain silent? Pray for the courage to be strong about the faith and share your witness with others.

May 19/20, 2018 Pentecost

"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of serve but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone."

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

All of us are blessed in different ways and we all face different circumstances. God has given each one of us many gifts – and how we use those gifts is our gift *back to God*. Everyone must do what he or she is called to do – and no one's call is identical.