



**J.S. Paluch Company Inc.**

Your Partner in Stewardship



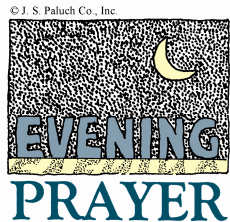
**Stewardship Stew**  
April 2008

Tom Gull  
National Sales Consultant  
J. S. Paluch Company

**TIME**

*Invitations to Prayer*

I was invited to be part of a Lenten prayer group this year. It wasn't organized by my parish but was composed of 12 or so choir members and the choir director. We met for a simple soup supper on Sunday evenings. We



discussed the readings from the morning, a little arm chair analysis of the homilies we heard (not intended), and prayed for our own intentions and those of our community. It was easy to make the time for prayer because it was Lent and because someone else organized it. Some days I find it hard to pray: "Lord, help me get out of bed and be pleasant today" is about it. We race to work, to lunch, to home, to after school sports activities, to parish meetings, and to the fast-food drive up window. Our heads hit the pillow and we sigh Paul's words to Timothy, "I have finished the race."

Parishes don't always have the staff, volunteers, or resources to fulfill their parishioners' "at home" prayer needs. World Library Publications recently published "Fifteen-Minute Retreats to slow down your world." Written by Rev. Joseph J. Juknialis of Milwaukee, it provides thirty retreats consisting of five minutes for scripture, five minutes for reading the reflection, and five

minutes for contemplation. I think I can do that! Hmm, it might make a perfect Mother's Day gift too. More information about the book is at the end of this newsletter.

**TALENT**

*Invitations to Participate*

In our parish registration packets we often list all of the ministries available. It can appear to be a big menu. Sign up for four and you get a fifth one for free! Tables at the annual ministry fair beckon passersby to learn more about a ministry. I recall a friend who wanted to join our parish's maintenance committee but, when he learned that it met two Wednesday evenings a month to plan its work, this was not for Troy. He wanted a phone call when a trench needed to be dug or a wall needed a fresh coat of paint. Based on his comment and comments from others, we redesigned our list of ministries to include "areas of talent and interest." New members could note that they enjoyed gardening, crafts, sewing, photography, etc. This allowed the parish staff to direct volunteers to ministries or one-time programs that needed

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certain skills that might not be apparent to the talented person. For example, when our parish began preparations for our centennial, we needed writers to read decades of old bulletins, anniversary programs, and other historical records to create a substantial centennial book. Use your parish census software to keep track of members' skills and interests. You can also create a file folder for each area of talent and just

put a copy of the registrant's talent and interest form in the file. This is an easy way to quickly locate volunteers for a special project.

Elsa, a business manager I've known for several years, commented the other day that while she likes to garden she did not check off that box on her parish form. We need to keep that in mind. Just because Elsa doesn't want to get called on for every gardening project doesn't mean that she wouldn't lend her talents occasionally. Don't forget to seek new talent in your weekly bulletin. Give readers ample notice before an event or project. Even if you know that the same crew you used last year will show up again, always seek new members. This might give those who have been involved forever the freedom to step back knowing that there are others who have talents to share too. Who knows? Elsa just might show up to plant a tree on Arbor Day.

LET US KNOW YOUR  
INTERESTS AND SKILLS

- Architect / Engineer
- Remodeling
- Carpentry / Woodworking
- Cleaning
- Landscaping
- Painting
- Plastering
- Needlework / Sewing
- Child Care during meetings
- Child Care during Mass
- Graphic Artist
- Photography
- Videotaping
- Musician
- Catechist
- Tutor
- Nurse
- Physician
- Daytime Office assistance

## TREASURE

### Invitations to Give Thanks

We often think about treasure as ways to increase the Sunday offering. We often forget that at the parish we must also be good stewards and judiciously use the resources we receive. On more than one occasion, my former parish secretary would reprimand me with "you're throwing away your dimes to pick up your pennies." Back in the 1980's, the manufacturing company I worked for had a contest to develop some cost saving measures. Another firm I was at in the next decade did the same thing. Before winners were announced, the ideas were posted. This elicited more comments as other staff improved on the ideas or pointed out how a savings in one area increased costs in another. Perhaps this can be a team building and expense reducing project for your staff.

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## Pastor Al®



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"I quoted Jesus: 'Your light must shine before men.'  
And yet, my mom simply took my handheld video game, snapped off the light, and yelled 'Go to bed!!!'"

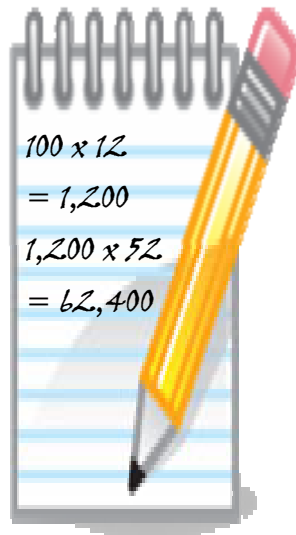
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I recently visited a parish and asked the parish receptionist if they were receiving an adequate amount of weekly bulletins. She said they didn't because when she went to mail bulletins to their infirmed members there were not enough. We made a note to increase their quantity. A few minutes later, we were touring the church with another staff member when we noticed an entire box of bulletins in the corner of the usher's room hidden by a laundry basket filled with miscellaneous sweaters and jackets left behind by parishioners. So, we took out the t w e n t y t h e receptionist needed and left a box of 180 to be recycled, hopefully, at a later date.

Imagine, if they decreased their weekly bulletin count by 100, this reduction to their 12 page bulletin would save 1,200 pieces of paper a week. That's 62,400 pieces of paper a year, more than 12 cartons of paper.

As summer approaches, consider letting your bulletin provider know if your weekly quantity can be reduced between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Earth Day is April 22. Take steps now to care for this beautiful Earth that God created for us.



## REGISTER NOW

On our customer secure Web site you will find materials to help you prepare weekly bulletins, prayer services, scripture studies, and more. With your paid subscription, you may also access *AIM Liturgy Resources magazine*, *Pastoral Patterns*, and *Palabras Pastorales*. Scripture based bulletin art for every Sunday of the year is included for our bulletin customers.

To register, go to [www.jspaluch.com](http://www.jspaluch.com) and select Customer Secure Web site. Enter your e-mail address, create a password, and you'll be all set.



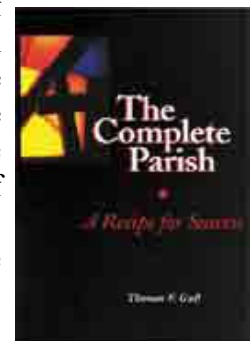
## ARCHIVED EDITIONS

Previous issues of *Stewardship Stew* are available in English and Spanish on the J S Paluch web site at [www.jspaluch.com](http://www.jspaluch.com)



## OUR MONTHLY CONTEST

Send us a description of a stewardship activity in your parish. Each month, we will select one as the stewardship Idea of the Month and send a copy of *The Complete Parish: A Recipe for Success* to the winner. Submit your entry to [gullt@jspaluch.com](mailto:gullt@jspaluch.com)



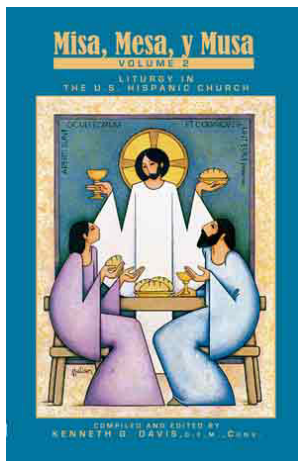
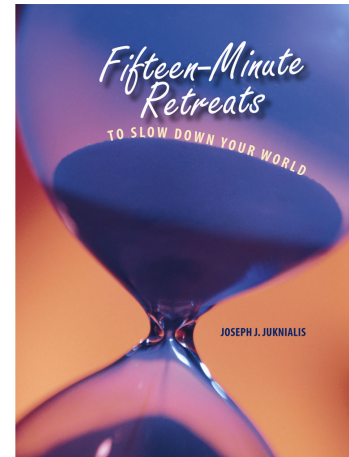
Can't wait to win a copy? Log on to [www.wlpmusic.com](http://www.wlpmusic.com) and enter item #017257.

## SHOPPING LIST

Visit World Library Publications at [www.wlp/jspaluch.com/wlp/](http://www.wlp/jspaluch.com/wlp/) for information on these and other exciting products.

### **Fifteen Minute Retreats** Vol. 1 - Juknialis

A collection of thirty scripture-based reflections. For those times in life when you need a breather or a challenge, this book offers wisdom and prayer. Take five minutes for the scripture, five minutes for reading the reflection, and five minutes for prayerful contemplation, and there it is, a fifteen-minute retreat! Great for personal or small group use. WLP 017110 \$12.95



### **Misa Mesa y Musa** Volume II - Davis

Building on the foundation of Volume 1, this book presents essays by a variety of noted Hispanic authors and liturgists and a realistic look at the challenge and complexity of worship in Hispanic/Latino communities. Designed for non-Hispanics working in diverse, worshipping communities, it reminds us that as we gather to celebrate our faith, we must also be conscious of those missing from, or not truly welcomed at, the table. WLP 012702 \$14.95