

# INSIGHTS ON FAITH & GIVING

## Lake Institute on Faith & Giving

**MISSION:** to foster a greater understanding of the ways in which faith both inspires and promotes giving by providing knowledge, education, and training.

## The Center on Philanthropy

**MISSION:** to increase the understanding of philanthropy and improve its practice worldwide.

Check out our new website!



The Lake Institute  
on Faith & Giving

Fostering greater understanding  
of the ways **FAITH INSPIRES  
AND INFORMS GIVING**

[LEARN MORE](#)

## Contact Us

### [Bill Enright](#)

Director

### [Aimée Laramore](#)

Associate Director

### [Karen DeGan](#)

Administrative Secretary

**Email:** [lfi@iupui.edu](mailto:lfi@iupui.edu)

**Phone:** 317-278-9855

**Address:**

550 West North St, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3272

## The Stewardship Debacle

Stewardship is a beautiful but all too frequently misappropriated word. Authentic stewardship has to do with wisdom and prudence; how we manage the resources with which we have been blessed. Sadly, in many religious circles it is the word trotted out each year come a congregations' annual fundraising campaign, thereby diminishing stewardship to a mere synonym for fundraising. Stewardship is not about fundraising; it is about the prudent management of the resources with which congregations are blessed. Check out the use of the word steward in sacred texts. Where in the Bible was the steward ever a fundraiser; the steward was a household manager. The Qur'an refers to both Adam and David as khalifa (i.e. divine stewards) and as such administrators of God's bounty. In his ethics, Aristotle associated the virtue of prudence - the wise and responsible use of possessions and gifts given - with stewards who acted as managers of a household.<sup>1</sup>

As we head into the season in which many congregations marshal their troops to make their pledges and subscribe to a new budget, beware of the subliminal messages a misread of stewardship may nurture.

- If this is the only time each year you as clergy talk about money do you mean to imply to your congregants that they only need make a connection between God and money once a year?
- If you are a congregation that encourages tithing and this is the only time you talk about it are you suggesting that only ten percent of peoples' possessions belong to God leaving them to do as they wish with the other ninety percent?
- Does your practice of money-talk leave your congregants living in two separate and disconnected worlds; God's world and the church, and my world and my work?

Stewardship becomes an authentic practice in congregations when money-talk is separated from fundraising. Preach and teach about money and the faithful use of possessions throughout the year; hold seminars wherein families can acquire the tools of good financial management. The subjects Jesus talked about the most were money via the faithful use of possessions and the kingdom of God. However, I don't recall that Jesus ever engaged in fundraising.

Then, come budget-making time stop talking about money and embrace good fundraising practices: be upfront and bold in telling your story, and highlight the

---

**Join the discussion**

Like us on Facebook and win!  
Once we've reached 100 likes we  
will draw a name to win the Lake  
Lecture of your choice.



Follow us on Twitter.



differences you are making via your mission in the community and world. Celebrate who you are and invite people to share in your ministry. As Henri Nouwen has observed "fundraising is a way of announcing our vision and inviting other people into our mission."<sup>2</sup>

Insights of Dr. Bill Enright

[1] Aristotle. *Nicomachean Ethics*. Second Edition, Hackett Publishing, p. 89.

[2] Nouwen, H. (2010). *The Spirituality of Fundraising*. The Henri Nouwen Spirituality Series. Nashville: The Upper Room and the Henri Nouwen Society.

---

## **IndyTalks: Indianapolis at the Crossroads**

### **Becoming an International Humanitarian Incubator: Young Professionals Working Across the Globe and Here Share Their Passions About Giving Back**

Please join us for this interactive discussion about fresh approaches to making a difference as we will explore how faith and upbringing have played an integral role in shaping the views and actions of our panelists. Aimée Laramore, Associate Director at The Lake Institute on Faith and Giving, will facilitate a panel discussion of three young professionals, Ming Hu, Arishaa Khan and Christopher Smith.

***Thursday, October 18th, 7:00 pm***

*Christian Theological Seminary (CTS), Common Room  
1000 W. 42nd Street , Indianapolis, IN 46208*

**FREE and open to the public**

[More information here.](#)

---

Copyright © The Lake Institute on Faith & Giving

## **New School of Philanthropy**

"The Indiana Commission for Higher Education approved the university's proposal to create what is believed to be the world's first school dedicated to the study and teaching of philanthropy. The school will build on the strengths of the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University, a pioneer in philanthropy education, research and training." [read more...](#)