

Practice of Stewardship

As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. (1 Peter 4:10)

Stewardship is a lifestyle,
a life of total accountability to God through responsible Christian living.
It begins by acknowledging God as the creator and owner of all.
Stewards see themselves as caretakers of God's gifts.
Their gratitude to God for His many gifts is expressed through
acts of prayer, worship, and in various forms of service and giving.

Stewards eagerly share their gifts out of love for God and one another.

The spirit of stewardship is to help people live the life that God intended. Stewardship will intensify each individual's relationship with God, resulting in revitalized and strengthened parish communities. Share, and give of the blessings God has given you.

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

Stewardship is multi-faceted and addresses all aspects of our faith and spirituality.

- **Scripture Based** All of the teachings on stewardship come directly from the Gospels, the Old Testament Books and the letters of the New Testament. Stewardship is not a new fad, or environmental word. Stewardship is the way God has expected His people to live since the beginning of time.
- **Dependence on God** Stewardship is recognizing that everything we have is a gift from God. We can take credit for nothing. Everything we have and everything we do is a result of some gift that God has placed into our hands.
- **Gratitude** Stewardship is living a life of gratitude – taking the time every day to recognize the gifts that God has given us and to be grateful for them.
- **Giving Back** Stewardship is returning a portion of our gifts to God. The gifts we return are our time, our talent and our treasure. We return these gifts not because God or our Church needs them but because we feel an overwhelming need to show our love and gratitude to God.
- **Transformative** Stewardship is transformative. Once we embrace the stewardship message it changes the way we look at every decision we make. Stewardship becomes a total way of life.
- **A Love Response** Once we allow God to truly take up residence in our hearts we become so overwhelmed by His abundant love for us that we just naturally feel the need to join our lives with Him and dedicate our time, talent and treasure to carrying out God's work here on earth. Our generosity comes from within and not from any external pressure or reward.

- **Proportionate Giving** Stewardship calls us to give as God has given to us. We should not base our giving on what others are giving. We should not excuse ourselves from giving because we do not see others giving. Rather we give in proportion to all that God has given to us.
- **Prayer - Spending Time with God** Stewardship involves spending time with God. Recognizing that every day is a gift from God, we strive to spend some of each day with God, through prayer, Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, scripture reading, quiet meditation and other spiritual activities. During this time give thanks and we ask God to show us how He wants us to use the gifts He has given to us.
- **Participation - Sharing Talent** Stewardship involves sharing your talent. Recognizing that God has given each individual spiritual gifts and talents so that *together* we can do the work of Our Lord. We strive to share our own talents *and* to encourage and welcome others to use their talents to participate in the mission of the church and the ministry of our parishes.
- **Generosity - Giving Treasure** Stewardship involves giving treasure. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus challenged us to *give as it has been given to us*. Aware of our financial blessings, we strive to give generously to support the building up of God's kingdom by supporting our parishes and diocese.
- **Trust in God** Stewardship is trusting God. Believing that our generous God will always provide for us. We will never have all that we want, but we will always be provided with all that we need.
- **Accountability** Stewardship calls us to recognize that just as in the Parable of the Talents |(MT 25:14-30), each of us will someday be asked by God to give an accounting of all that we have done with the gifts that have been given to us. Likewise, parish communities that embrace stewardship must be accountable to the community for the ways in which the parish uses the gifts entrusted to it. Accountability does not just fall on individuals; the diocese must also be transparent and accountable.
- **Thankfulness** Stewardship calls us to be ever grateful for the gifts that God has given. Not only are we called to be grateful to God, but we also must be grateful to one another. Just as we thank God every day, a stewardship parish must also show gratitude, recognition and appreciation to those who have given generously to the support of the parish.
- **Counter-Cultural** Stewardship is counter-cultural. Meaning that, society encourages us to accumulate more wealth and power. Stewardship reminds us that we already have more than enough with what we already have.
- **Discipleship** Stewardship is discipleship. We strive to put God first in all things and to follow where Our Lord might lead.



PRAYER



PARTICIPATION



GENEROSITY