

What is Stewardship?

Sounds like someone in the airline or racing!

Well, not quite... Stewardship is a spirituality; a way of life. By virtue of our Baptism, we are called to be stewards of God's creation; called to care for the earth and all its creatures (including our fellow human beings!). As disciples of Jesus Christ, we do this by giving our time, talent, and treasure.

What does Scripture say about stewardship?

Scripture abounds with references to Stewardship. The parable where the Master leaves his stewards with varying number of talents in the Gospel of Matthew is one that easily comes to mind. There are however, many more...

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." (Psalm 24.1)

"Anyone among you who aspires to greatness must serve the rest; whoever wants to rank first among you must serve the needs of all." (Mark 10:43-44)

"Jesus said, "Tend my sheep...Feed my sheep" (John 21:15-17)

"Freely you have received, freely give". (Matt 10:8)

"As soon as the word spread, the people of Israel gave in abundance the first fruits of grain, wine, oil, honey and of all the produce of the field; and they brought in abundantly, the tithe of everything" (2 Chr 31:5)

How does Stewardship apply to me?

Time, talent and treasure? I don't have much of any of that!

Have we stopped long enough to realise that time is a gift from God? Do we give back to God part of that gift of time?

We all have talents. Unfortunately, many of us fail to recognise that the skills we have is gift.

Even with today's financial and social pressures, if we stop to think about the poverty rampant in this world, including our own backyard, it would be hard for anyone of us to say that we do not have treasure

Ask yourself...

- What do you do for a living?
- What skills do you have that makes you good at your job or profession?
- What do you like to do in your spare time?
- What skills have you gained from your job and your hobbies?
- What skills do people most often praise you for?

Think about...

...some of the jobs that have to be done to keep your parish alive and flourishing. Ask not what the parish can do for you, but what you can do for the parish. How can you contribute some of your talents towards building your church and community?

Prayer is always a good starting point...

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you recognize your gifts, and to show you how to use them for the Kingdom of God.

Ask God to help you make time for your parish and wider community

What is expected of me?

It is not what we expect from each other, but what God expects from each one of us.

"Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you." (Deut 16:17)

Time

24 hours a day is given to me as pure gift by God. How I spend that time is my gift to God. How much time am I willing spend to help build God's kingdom, by being in prayer and in the service of others?



Talent - Service

How am I using the talents that God has given me? Am I using them for the glory of God and good of others; or have I taken them for granted or am using it to the detriment of creation and those around me?



Treasure - Sharing

Giving of one's 'first fruits' goes all the way back to Abel. Don't just offer your 'spare change'. Make a conscious, calculated, and prayerful decision to return to God, a predetermined percentage of your annual income based on the realities of your situation.



All in all, what is most important is, being aware of, and grateful for, the many blessings God has given us.

Evangelisation
through
Stewardship

Heavenly Father,
we thank you for the gifts
you have given us.
You ask us to develop these gifts
and share them with others.

Help us also,
to recognise the gifts in others,
so that together,
we may respond to the call of Jesus,
to spread the Good News
in our communities.

May your Spirit of Love
guide us on our journey.
Amen.



Stewardship A Disciple's Way of Life

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