

## **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).

"What identifies a steward? Safeguarding material and human resources and using them responsibly are one answer; so is generous giving of time, talent, and treasure. But being a Christian steward means more." (USCCB)

As stated in Stewardship: A Disciple's Response: "A Christian steward is one who receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others and returns them with increase to the Lord."

### **How Can I be an Effective Steward?**

"Stewards of God's gifts are not passive beneficiaries. We cooperate with God in our own redemption and in the redemption of others. We are also obliged to be stewards of the Church - collaborators and cooperators in continuing the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, which is the Church's essential mission. This mission - proclaiming and teaching, serving and sanctifying - is our task. It is the personal responsibility of each one of us as stewards of the Church. All members of the Church have their own roles to play in carrying out its mission:

- Parents, who nurture their children in the light of faith;
- Parishioners, who work in concrete ways to make their parishes true communities of faith and vibrant sources of service to the larger community;
- All Catholics, who give generous support - time, money, prayers, and personal service according to their circumstances - to parish and diocesan programs and to the universal Church.

The life of a Christian steward models the life of Jesus. It is challenging and even difficult, in many respects, yet intense joy comes to those who take the risk to live as Christian stewards. Women and men who seek to live as stewards learn that 'all things work to good for those who love God' (Romans 8:28)." (USCCB)

*(USCCB = direct quote from U.S. Council of Catholic Bishops.)*