

Part I: Disciples as Stewards

The Apostles provide us an example of what it means to live as a steward. Think for a few moments what it was like for them. You were asked to give up everything, no matter the cost. Who would do that now at your Parish? Would you? Who are those individuals at your Parish who always say “yes” to a new ministry or program? Those people are living as stewardship disciples. Our willingness to give of ourselves freely is tied to our journey to discipleship. When we participate in the Offertory during Mass, we are called to reflect on how we can offer all ways of stewardship, not just financial. Maybe our offering is serving at the local food pantry that week, or maybe it is committing time to prayer for the community. The Offertory is the opportunity for us to examine how we might draw closer to calling of discipleship.

Have you reviewed your job description for your stewardship committee lately? Would it be a position fitting of an Apostle? If not, what is it missing? Maybe the job description only talks about money and about the offertory. What would it look like if Peter or another disciple wrote the job description? Financial gifts during the Offertory are a tangible way to express our gratitude for the many gifts we have received; however we are also asked to examine our offering of time and talents.

Stewardship Recommendation:

Take some time at the next parish council meeting or stewardship meeting to describe the Apostles. After you have gathered a good amount of words or phrases, examine which keywords or phrases express your community’s view on stewardship. Reflect on what it means to be a stewardship disciple and discuss how your parish community might reflect and implement new ways of expressing and communicating stewardship.