

STEWARDSHIP CHALLENGES: CHURCH TEACHING ON STEWARDSHIP

“Do not turn your back on the needy, but share everything with your brother and call nothing your own. For if you have what is eternal in common, how much more should you have what is transient.”
Didache 4:8

“Possessions are gifts from God and are more for the sake of the brethren than one’s own soul. The Christian should not carry them about in his soul, nor allow them to bind and circumscribe his life. He is able with cheerful mind to bear their removal equally with their abundance.”
St. Clement of Alex, 200 A.D.

“For whatever is of God is common in our use, nor is anyone excluded from his benefits and his gifts, so as to prevent the whole human race from enjoying equally the divine goodness and liberality... In this example of equality, he who, as a possessor in the earth, shares his returns and his fruits with fraternity, while his is common and just in his gratuitous bounties, is an imitator of God the Father.
St. Cyprian, Carthage 250 A.D.

“Tell me, how is it that you are rich? From whom did you receive your wealth? And he, whom did he receive it from? From his grandfather, you say, from his father. By climbing this genealogical tree are you able to show the justice of this possession? Of course you cannot; rather its beginning and root have necessarily come out of injustice... Do not say, ‘I am spending what is mine; I am enjoying what is mine.’ In reality it is not yours but another’s.
St. John Chrysostom 400 A.D.

“Charity consists in loving rather than being loved.”
St. Thomas Aquinas

“Mercy is heartfelt sympathy for another’s distress, impelling us to help him if we can.”
St. Augustine

“When someone steals a man’s clothes we call him a thief. Should we not give the same name to one who would clothe the naked and does not? The bread in your cupboard belongs to the hungry man who needs it; the shoes rotting in your closet belong to the man who has no shoes; the money which you hoard belongs to the poor. You are not making a gift of your possessions to the poor man; you are handing over to him what is his.”
St. Basil the Great

“God willed that this earth should be the common possession of all and he offered its fruits to all. But avarice is distributed the rights of possession.”
St. Ambrose

“Be not anxious about what you have, but about what you are.”
St. Gregory the Great

“You, who have the kingdom of heaven, are not a poor little woman, but a queen.”
Blessed Jordan of Saxony

“A detached man should always be looking to see what he can do without.”
Blessed Henry Suso

“Do something good for someone you like least, today.”
St. Anthony of Padua

“Remember that nothing is small in the eyes of God. Do all that you do with love.”
St. Therese of Lisieux

“If everyone would take only according to his needs and would leave the surplus to the needy, no one would be rich, no one poor, no one in misery.”
St. Basil

“Be diligent in serving the poor. Love the poor. Honor them, as you would Christ himself.”
St. Louise de Marillac

“Make yourself a seller when you are buying, and a buyer when you are selling, and then you will buy and sell justly.”
St. Francis de Sales

“Of what use are riches in eternity?”
St. Aloysius Gonzaga

“God destined the earth and all it contains for all men and all peoples so that all created things would be fairly shared by all mankind under the guidance of justice tempered by charity.”
Vatican II, Modern World, 69

“In his use of things man should regard the external goods he legitimately owns not merely as exclusive to himself but common to others also, in the sense that they can benefit others as well as himself.”
Vatican II, Modern World, 69