

A WEEK'S REFLECTION ON STEWARDSHIP

Below are Biblical passages on the meaning of Christian Stewardship. Throughout the week, read a daily passage and internalize its meaning for your life and the personal importance of fulfilling the need to give—giving the gifts of time, talent and treasure bestowed upon all of us through God's Grace and Love.

DAY ONE

“All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

Matthew 28: 19-20

*How can I be a disciple of Jesus in my community?
How do I encourage others to be disciples of Jesus?*

Day Two

“For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members of one another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.”

Romans 12: 4-8

*What are my special gifts?
How can my gifts be used to serve the body, the Church?*

Day Three

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many...If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.”

1 Corinthians 12; 12-14, 26

*How does the body, the Church, suffer when I am not present to it?
Do I encourage and rejoice in the body, the Church, by my sharing in it?*

Day Four

“I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all

and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift."

Ephesians 4: 1-7

*Do I make efforts to maintain unity in the community? How?
How do I use my time and talents?*

Day Five

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?'...Indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Matthew 6: 25, 31-33

*How much time and effort do I spend on eating, drinking and clothing myself and my family?
Do I spend an equal time in matters of building up the kingdom?*

Day Six

"The just one's sacrifice is most pleasing, nor will it ever be forgotten; in generous spirit pay homage to the Lord, be not sparing of freewill gifts. With each contribution show a cheerful countenance...Give to the Most High as God has given to you, generously, according to your means."

Sirach 35: 6-9

*Do I give to others from my heart?
Do I give generously, according to my means?*

Day Seven

As each has received a gift, employ it for one another as good stewards of God's varied graces."

1 Peter 4:10

What gift have I received? Do I return the favor?

"But the spirit makes free men and women who are ready to put aside love of self and integrate earthly resources into human life, in order to reach out to that future day when humanity itself will become an offering accepted by God."

#38, Vatican II, Church in the Modern World