

A Week's Reflection on Stewardship

Find below stewardship passages that can help us call to mind the ways we can participate as stewards. Read a passage each day, reflect, and then write your own prayer that will move you to a greater understanding of how you can be a joyful steward.

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

Reflection: We are not expected to do this alone; God is always with us and encourages us in many ways to act in accord with his commands. We have been given the message and the tools to participate fervently in our faith communities.

Question: How have we engaged ourselves in the larger Body of Christ, the Church?

Your Prayer_____

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

Reflection: We each have been given gifts to share, from our talents in music to our ability to be a professional accountant, each one of us has something to offer.

Question: What talents and gifts can you offer to your local Parish community this week?

Your Prayer_____

Day Three

"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

Reflection: A life that has been focused on materialistic goods is a life empty of spiritual enrichment. The joy that comes from one's pursuit of the heart, the good in people, the wants for a more peaceful world or community, are the worthy causes of our worry, not the material goods that often get in the way.

Question: In what ways do you look beyond the material needs of this world and look into the hearts of those who sit next to you at Mass? How often are we praying and caring for the spiritual needs within our communities?

Your Prayer_____

Day Four

*As each has received a gift, employ it for one another as good stewards of God's varied graces.
1 Peter 4:10*

Reflection: It is through God's abundant love for us that he has given all of us gifts we can enjoy and share with others.

Question: When was the last time you reflected on your gifts? How have your gifts changed over the years into new gifts or gifts that have never been shared?

Your Prayer_____

Day Five

Then he said to all, "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. What profit is there for one to gain the whole world yet lose or forfeit himself?" Luke 9: 23-25

Reflection: Following Jesus is not easy. Putting someone's life ahead of your own, is also challenging. However, we are called to think of others before ourselves, to help them with their cross, while we continue to carry our own.

Question: Have you paid attention to those around you and how they may need your help with carrying up their cross? Have you asked someone the simple question, "How are you doing?"

Your Prayer_____

Day Six

Jesus said in reply, "Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?" Luke 17: 17-18

Reflection: Recall a time when you were frustrated or angry at God, maybe you were not frustrated but you asked for peace or help. How many times after the dust settles and we have moved on, do we come back to give thanks?

Question: When was the last time you thanked God in your prayers instead of asking for something?

Your Prayer_____

Day Seven

“In every way I have shown you that by hard work of that sort we must help the weak, and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Acts 20:35

Reflection: We all have experienced the excitement and joy of volunteering. Those experiences express the idea that in giving, we receive. It is a lesson we learn early on and one that brings so much joy to many, including ourselves.

Question: How can we celebrate and acknowledge the stories of giving in our lives and in the life of our Parish?

Your Prayer_____