

June 8 Blog

In order to understand and practice spiritual stewardship, we must acknowledge the love God has for us and then share that love in return. Stewardship simply put, is our expression of this love through our offerings of time, talent, and treasure. Over the next three months, I am going to explore the three practices of stewardship- *time, talent, and treasure*. To begin, let us reflect on the practice of time as it relates to spiritual stewardship.

For many of us, time gets hijacked. It is taken over by activities, entertainment, scurrying about from one thing to another, and often not leaving time for God in the plans. Are we *finding* time for God, or are we *making* time for God? What are you *making* time for, if not for your faith?

If you have been to the Quigley building downtown and visited the Chapel you are aware of its beauty. Recently I was scurrying about the office, running from one thing to the next and decided in between meetings to run out and grab my mid-afternoon coffee. My normal route passes right by the Chapel. I abruptly stopped at the top of the stairs outside the Chapel doors because I heard something unusual. While the Chapel was completely empty and quite dark, I heard the organ being played. Now, I normally go out for a mid-day coffee break, but in the few months I have worked here, I have never heard this organ being played at this time. The organist was playing beautiful, engaging music. I was trying to decide if I had time to go in or keep running to the coffee shop. *I decided to stop and go in to listen. I was going to make time for listening.*

The experience begged me to ask *what am I defining as time well spent?* I will tell you this experience was time well spent. Every time I find myself saying a prayer with my daughter before she goes to bed, despite having a billion and one chores to do after she falls asleep, *time well spent*. Each Sunday we find ourselves at Mass witnessing our faith community that celebrates the Mass beautifully, is *time well spent*. Each opportunity I have to stop in the Chapel at Quigley is *time well spent* during a work day. The spirituality of stewardship regards time as a gift from God, which therefore is to be received, acknowledged, and given back. How are we giving the gift of time back to God?

The giving of gifts back to God is called tithing. Tithing is not just a financial gift back to God, it is also the giving of time and talents back to Him. So, how are we giving our first and best time back to God? Sunday, the Lord's Day, presents one day a week where we can offer a gift of thanks back to the one who gives us the gift of time. Think about this, if we consider a Biblical tithe, we are referring to giving one-tenth. One-tenth of a day is two hours and twenty-four minutes. What can we be doing to give one-tenth of time back to our faith each day or at least once a week? Maybe it is in small increments during the day by doing something nice to a beggar on the street or giving a hug to a fellow employee who is having a tough day. We can take time over our commute in the morning to pray, or take a walk at lunch to reflect.

As a Parish community, how can we ensure that we are consciously and intentionally planning time for prayer? If we all agree that time is a gift, how are we as a Parish sharing and acknowledging that gift? How are we continuing the Lord's Day throughout the week?