

# THE EVERYDAY STEWARD

*By Katie Price*

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***What if you woke up tomorrow and the only thing in your possession was what you thanked God for the day before?***

I can't remember where I first heard this question asked of me, but I remember it struck me. I tried to think about what I was grateful for the day before, or what I had prayed about, or even if I remembered to take time to pray. I started to feel pretty guilty when I came to realize that the only person in my household that prayerfully thanked God each day was my daughter Gracey. My daughter is almost four and before we have dinner most nights we take a moment to pray. To make it easy on her we always ask her, "Okay Gracey, how would you like to thank Jesus for your day today?" She then proceeds to rattle off a list of animals, objects, sometimes her teachers, and family members that she can draw from her memory. While it often gives us a laugh, I realized that what we are teaching her is exactly what I should be doing. In this case, she set an example for me.

If you have been to any stewardship workshop or webinar this year, you will have heard me talk about how important gratitude is to stewardship. Stewardship starts with gratitude. We are called to acknowledge all the many gifts we have in our lives...the gift of time or ability to have a safe place to worship, the gift of our talent that we pour into volunteering or our professional careers, the gifts of treasure that provide us security, shelter, or luxuries. We have so much to be grateful for, but we first need to acknowledge our gifts in order to share them. We all don't have the same gifts, but that is the beauty of Catholic stewardship, because we are asked to share the gifts we have with those who do not.

I've asked this question during workshops before, "How many of your Parishes send out thank-you notes during the year, which are not gift receipts or tax letters?" Those thank you notes can be for someone's service or ministry leadership, they can be a note of thanks for prayer, or a thank you for leading a retreat. In our Parishes, much like our home lives, we have so much to be thankful for and steward. How about your Parish community asks this question, "What if your Parish community work up tomorrow and the only thing in the Parish community's possession was what the Parish thanked God for the day before?"

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[http://legacy.archchicago.org/departments/stewardship\\_dev/stewardship\\_dev.shtm](http://legacy.archchicago.org/departments/stewardship_dev/stewardship_dev.shtm)