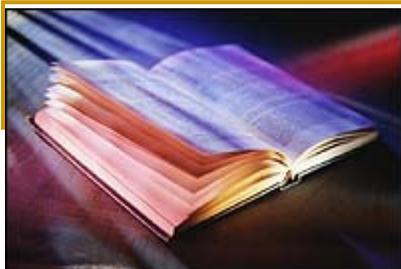




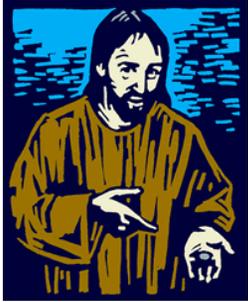
What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is receiving God's gifts gratefully, cherishing and tending them in a responsible and accountable manner, sharing them in justice and love with others, and returning them with increase to the Lord.



Stewardship in Scripture

- **Sirach 35:9** “...Give to the Most High as He has given to you, generously, according to your means.”
- **Luke 12:34,48** “Wherever your treasure lies, there will your heart be... When much has been given a man, much will be required of him.”
- **1 Peter 4:10** “...Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”



Stewardship and Faith

Stewardship is:

- ... a call to a deeper understanding of our relationship with God, with ourselves and with others accepting all as brothers and sisters and reaching out to them.
- ...evangelization and witness: spreading the Gospel by living it.
- ...accepting that the mission of the Church to bear witness to Christ belongs to *all* and that God has called each of us to participate in that mission.
- ...using our resources wisely in the awareness that they are held in trust for the whole community.

Stewardship is a Way of Life:

Good Stewardship

- Listening to what others say.
- Expecting good things of people because we know they are capable of greatness and allowing them to contribute to the best of their ability.
- Creating connections between Ministries in our parish so that the People of God can clearly see that “*all the members, though many, are one.*”

Poor Stewardship

- Not consulting anyone because we have all the answers and know what’s best for everyone.
 - Expecting and therefore asking very little from people.
 - Allowing ministries to operate independently of each other so that there is no interaction or cohesion.
-

Good Stewardship

- Being open to and appreciative of all forms of prayer knowing that God speaks and listens in many ways.
- Taking time as a family to eat a meal together, pray as a family and spend quality time with each other.
- Stepping forward and offering your gifts and talents to strengthen the community.

Poor stewardship

- Insisting on only one form of prayer.
 - Letting everyone "do their own thing" because it might be easier.
 - Allowing the "regulars" to volunteer because they're good at it and, besides, no one asked me.
-

Time, Talent & Treasure

"To the right and to the left, I throw to my little birds the good grain that God places in my hands.

And then I let things take their course. I busy myself with it no more... God tells me:

Give, give always, without being concerned with the results."

(St. Therese of Lisieux)



-
- ***Time*** Stewards recognize that we belong to God and recognize Him as the giver of all good gifts including our time. This leads to profound gratitude, justice and love as the motives for giving back to God.
 - ***Talent*** Our many talents must be seen as gifts from God. It's up to us to decide how we use those gifts, whether we keep them hidden underneath a bushel or use our gifts to plant seeds that will continue to sprout up and strengthen our community.
 - ***Treasure*** So when were you going to talk about money? That's a question many people tend to associate with stewardship. We come to the Lord a whole people. He gave us our time and talents that enabled us to gain our treasure. We need to prayerfully consider its wise use.
-

Where to from here?



Stewardship needs the collaborative ministry of the parish clergy and lay leaders to bring the people to a realisation that collectively, ***we are Church***; that we are ***gifted*** by God to be Christ to one another; and that each one has a ***responsibility in gratitude*** to live life as God intended.
