

# Stewardship Prayers

## Stewardship Prayer

Oh Lord, giver of life and source of our freedom,  
we are reminded by the Psalmist  
that Yours is "the earth and its fullness;  
the world and those who dwell in it."  
We know that it is from Your hand  
that we have received all we have  
and are and will be.  
Gracious and loving God,  
we understand that You call us  
to be the stewards of Your abundance,  
the caretakers of all You have entrusted to us.  
Help us always to use Your gifts wisely  
and teach us to share them generously.  
May our faithful stewardship bear witness  
to the love of Christ in our lives.  
We pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus' name.  
Amen.

*The Disciple as Steward, 3*

## A Steward's Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit, Fire of Love,  
Open our hearts and minds  
to the blessings  
of life, faith and resources:  
Come, Holy Spirit!  
Guide us as we walk the ways of discipleship:  
Come, Holy Spirit!  
Make us faithful stewards  
of all we are, have, and will be:  
Come, Holy Spirit!  
Give us courage  
to serve boldly and with compassion:  
Come, Holy Spirit!  
Strengthen our faith  
as we grow more deeply in relationship  
with Christ and one another:  
Come, Holy Spirit!  
Enliven us in your presence:  
Come, Holy Spirit!  
For you are God with the Father and the Son,  
now and forever.  
Come, Holy Spirit, Come! Amen.

*Grateful Disciples, 63*

## Stewardship Prayer: Diocese of Green Bay

Generous and loving God,  
You call us to be disciples of your Son Jesus  
And good stewards of all your many gifts.  
Open our mind and hearts  
to a greater awareness  
and deeper appreciation  
of your countless blessings.  
Transform us through the power of your Spirit  
to nurture a Stewardship way of life  
marked by faith-filled prayer,  
service to our neighbor,  
and generous sharing.  
Teach us to be faithful servants of your gifts.  
With Mary's help, may we return tenfold  
the gifts entrusted to us.  
We pray through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Embracing a Generous Life, 23*





# Called

**“We are called to be the transparency through whom God is seen.” (*Grateful Disciples*, 6)**

**W**ho are you? Who are you called to be? What are you called to do? These are questions at the heart of growing as a disciple of Jesus Christ and as a good steward. Who are you? A child of God. Who are you called to be? A member of Christ's body. What are you called to do? Grow and live in holiness.

To be holy is to desire God above all else, to seek God's ways and do God's will, to live and share Christ's love in the world. We are never finished holiness projects. If we strive to grow as God's children and Christian disciples, we will embrace a life of ongoing conversion, of becoming more like Christ each day. With every time of prayer, participation in the liturgy, and reading of sacred Scripture, you will become closer to God and will more fully perceive God's desire for you and for the world. With each decision or action, time of service, and interaction with family, friends, and coworkers, you may share the truth of Jesus Christ's saving mission of love. (*30 Days on Stewardship*; Reflection #8: “Called to Holiness”)

**Read “The Calling of Samuel” – 1 Samuel 3:1-10**

- Do I believe that I am called?
- What might God be calling me to at this time?
- Use the Samuel Silent Reflection (see resource page)

**Consider further how our call to discipleship is linked with stewardship (*Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*):**

The Christian vocation is essentially a call to be a disciple of Jesus... (12)

Jesus' call is urgent. He does not tell people to follow him at some time in the future but here and now – at this moment, in these circumstances. There can be no delay.

Becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ leads naturally to the practice of stewardship. These linked realities, discipleship and stewardship, then make up the fabric of a Christian life in which each day is lived in an intimate, personal relationship with the Lord...refracted through the prisms of countless individual vocations, this way of life embodies and expresses the one mission of Christ: to do God's will, to proclaim the good news of salvation, to heal the afflicted, to care for one's sisters and brothers, to give life – life to the full – as Jesus did. (14)

**Closing Prayer: Choose from the Stewardship Prayers**





# Bring Out the Welcome Mat

“Many gifts have been given to the church through Stewardship formation...One of these gifts is the recognition of the importance of hospitality and a genuine heartfelt welcome in our parishes. (38) Engaging people in a parish and through the parish to a life of discipleship requires a culture in which every person matters.” (40) (*Grateful Disciples*)

**T**he parish is more than simply a place where people come to Mass or participate in sacramental preparation. The parish is a community of believers who are committed to Christ and to living as disciples. Through participation in the Eucharist and in the life of the parish, we grow in communion with Christ and each other. We are formed as people of mission, who share God’s love through service within the community and are sent forth from it as Christ’s people in the world.

The appreciation of hospitality and welcome makes perfect sense. If we hope that people will open their hearts and minds to God’s love in new and renewed ways, they must feel at home in their parish. It must be their “family of faith.” Offering a genuine welcome and sincere invitation to become part of the community conveys Christ’s love. Hospitality opens the door to an encounter with Jesus, for the person greeted and for the parishioners who welcome them.

In the words of St. Benedict, “Let all guests who arrive be received like Christ, for He is going to say, ‘I came as a guest and you received Me.’” (Matthew 25:35)

Hospitality of this sort is as much about who we are as what we do. We are forming the parish to live as Christ’s people in community. (*Grateful Disciples*, 39)

Hospitality is essentially about caring, a form of love. To be seen, to be listened to, to be welcomed, are deep sources of peace and joy. May we be good listeners; may

we be caring people. (*Embracing Hospitality*, Reflection #10)

## Read “Divine Expectations” - Matthew 25: 34-40

- Hospitality is everyone’s ministry: can you think of ways that you personally minister in the area of “Welcome and Hospitality?”
- How do we as a parish already put hospitality into practice?
- What are some new possibilities to “Bring out the Welcome Mat” in the areas of Word, Worship, Community or Service in our parish?

**Closing Prayer: Choose from the Stewardship Prayers**





# Belonging Leads to Believing

“Belonging is essential. Engaging people in the parish, and through the parish to a life of discipleship, requires a culture in which every person matters. We have to truly want people to belong; we must be sincere in our desire that people feel at home with us, because when they do, they are more likely to fall in love with God and share with others in the parish and beyond.” (*Grateful Disciples*, 40)

**M**uch has been written and said about how we are not called to ‘do’ church or ‘go to church’ but rather to ‘be’ church. Being a member of Christ’s body is about who we are, which in turn informs and shapes what we do. This is not a singular, solo endeavor. It is not ‘me and Jesus,’ but ‘we and Jesus.’

Being drawn to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are at the same moment forever linked to one another. Living and growing as stewards leads us to see more readily that we are all created in God’s image; each is entrusted with abundant gifts; all have a particular contribution to make as a child of God and Christian disciple.

We much more readily embrace the life of stewardship when we are firmly rooted in the community of faith. Our faith is strengthened, as is our resolve to discern Christ’s call and freely give in response to the gracious gifts that are poured out upon us. Together, we grow as disciples, recognize our blessings, and witness the grace of God at work among us and within us. (*30 Days on Stewardship*; Reflection #21: “Stewards in Community”)

## Read “Christian Charity” - 1 Peter 4:8-11

- To what extent do I feel a genuine sense of belonging in my parish community?
- Does it seem that my parish has room to grow in helping all parishioners feel a sense of belonging?
- What are some ways that I can help others in my

parish to feel as if they belong? What are some ways our parish community can work towards helping all to feel this sense of belonging?

## Consider the importance and the fruits of belonging: (*Grateful Disciples*, 40)

These [studies] all point to the importance of a welcoming parish in which people truly belong, through which they grow spiritually. The belonging described in the Gallup studies is more than, “I go to St. XYZ parish.” It is much more like, “St. XYZ parish is my home.” The result of such deep belonging on individuals and the parish community are striking: people are spiritually committed, love their faith, share themselves and their resources, and invite others to the parish.

## Closing Prayer: Choose from the Stewardship Prayers





# An All-Encompassing Way of Life

“Stewardship, then, is all-encompassing. It provides a place for the simplest individual gesture of kindness as well as stewardship communities working for systemic justice and peace. Stewardship flowing from a personal and communal relationship to Christ holds a particular attraction to people. It is, ultimately, the pull and the power of the Gospel come alive in our times and circumstances.” (*Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, 2)

One of the most crucial questions we ponder in our lives is that of vocation. Who are you, and what are you called to do? In a fundamental way, we share a common vocation as Christian disciples. To be a disciple is our vocation. But there is a personal vocation that must be considered as well. What shape will this discipleship take in your life?

All of these questions of vocation are given clarity when we recall that the root of the word “vocation” is the Latin *vocare*, which means to call. Christ calls each of us personally.

Beyond the call to a particular state of life – priesthood, religious life, married, or committed single life – there are calls that we discern and live out throughout our lives. In this sense, there is no singular, once-and-for-all calling. Rather, your entire life as a steward is a process of recognizing and responding to God’s grace. You do this most profoundly when you acknowledge the gifts you have been given and discern what work or service most needs what you have to give. (*30 Days on Stewardship*; Reflection #23: “Vocation”)

## Read “Faith and Works” – James 2:14-26

- How does your everyday work contribute to your practice of stewardship?
- In which other facet(s) of your life are you growing as a steward?

- In which area(s) of your life do you feel challenged to grow more?

## Consider the breadth and scope of our calling as stewards (*Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, 48):

Christian stewardship, therefore, applies to everything – all personal talents, abilities, and wealth; the local, national, and worldwide environment; all human and natural resources wherever they are; the economic order; governmental affairs; and even outer space. This stewardship does not tolerate indifference to anything important in God’s world...That calls for time – quality time – and extended perseverance. Stewardship is not easy.

## Closing Prayer: Choose from the Stewardship Prayers





# Self-Giving

“Stewards gladly give of themselves and their resources as a reflection of their growing relationship with Jesus, who gave his very life for the salvation of the world. United in mission with Christ, disciples and stewards give willingly and grow in their capacity to share Christ’s forgiveness and mercy in the daily circumstances of their lives. They use their talents and time to advocate for justice and to seek peace. They know that faith too, is a gift from God, and share appropriately and readily when the door to do so is open.” (*Grateful Disciples*, 13)

**M**ost of us spend a lot of time thinking about what we want. We dream of a new house, better car, career success, or a life of happiness. Some of our dreams are worthy goals for a life that is centered in God and rooted in faith. But often our wants stem from misplaced priorities, putting possessions or the desire for control before our relationship with Christ. Jesus invites us to let go of this want-driven life and instead embrace his self-giving love.

How much do you want, and what do you really need? This is a question the good steward faces every day. When we cling to things, people, or self-reliance, we lose the beauty of God’s vision for our lives and for all of creation. In holding tight to what we think we want, we lose the possibility of a greater, more profound, deeply meaningful way of life.

As a person who is committed to the steward’s way, separate your wants from your needs. The difference this makes is sure to have a lasting impact on you and all who are touched by your faithful stewardship. (*30 Days on Stewardship*, Reflection #27: “Separating Wants from Needs”)

**Read “The Request of James and John” - Mark 10:35-45**

- As you consider your many blessings, ask yourself, “How responsibly have I used these gifts for my good and for the good of others? Can I increase the good

that I am doing?”

- Would adopting a simpler lifestyle help you to better answer your call to discipleship? In which ways could it also help others? What holds you back from doing so?
- When I give of myself to help others and my parish, do I recognize that I am also giving to Jesus?



**Consider further some concrete ways to better live as a steward (*The Disciple as Steward*, 16):**

- This week, voluntarily do without some good thing – a doughnut with your coffee or a soft drink at lunch, for example – and donate the money you would have spent to an agency devoted to...the alleviation of poverty.
- If you identified a spiritual gift you are *not* using, reflect on how you might put it to use “for some benefit”...
- Spend some time meditating on how your everyday work is a sign of your stewardship. In what ways do you “collaborate with God in the work of redemption” in your day-to-day activities?

**Closing Prayer: Choose from the Stewardship Prayers**



# Jesus: Life and Word

“...when we consider the life and example of Jesus, we recognize that we are called to more. More gratitude, more giving...Through baptism, we become members of the Body of Christ. We are called to follow Jesus with our lives, into a life of discipleship, and to do so in community. Jesus shows us that God is One who gives completely for the sake of the other. Grateful disciples witness to Christ’s life and self-giving love through the stewardship of many blessings.” (*Grateful Disciples*, 7)

**I**t is difficult for us to put into words the true meaning of Jesus’ passion, and death on the cross. The truth is, we cannot fully comprehend such sacrifice. We could say that Jesus gave the only thing he had: his very life. And of course, it is everything. Through Jesus’ self-gift, we are drawn to the very heart of God. We are offered reconciliation, salvation, and peace. Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross does not end in death but victory—resurrection and new life. Through Christ’s sacrifice, we are shown the depths of God’s love and are invited to share it.

Christ’s death and resurrection give more meaning to the small and not-so-small sacrifices you make in the course of your life: time given when you feel you have nothing left within yourself; attention to children and elders; service and companionship with the poor, lonely, and ill; money, even when it means not having that new thing that you have had your eye on. When you give of yourself, you truly embrace Christ’s cross and resurrection. (*30 Days on Stewardship*; Reflection #19: “Giving of Self”)

**Read “The Washing of the Disciples’ Feet” - John 13: 3-17**

- What qualities in the life of Jesus provide a standard by which I can measure my own life and stewardship?
- Who in my life seems to have given up much for the sake of the Gospel? What visible reward, if any, has

there been for that sacrifice? What keeps me from doing the same?

- How can we, as a parish unite with Jesus’ model of self-emptying in order to fulfill God’s will for growing into a more vibrant, grateful parish community?

## **Consider prayer like Jesus: (*Grateful Disciples*)**

Living and growing as stewards is a lifetime of conversion...Prayer is necessary for this conversion—in fact, it is the lifeline through which we discern the ways in which we are called to steward our many gifts. (8)

This openness to transformation requires humility and trust, which we learn from Jesus whose own life of prayer exemplified these qualities: “Jesus’ prayer before the events of salvation that the Father has asked him to fulfill is a humble and trusting commitment of his human will to the loving will of the Father.” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2600) (8-9)

## **Closing Prayer: Choose from the Stewardship Prayers**





# Joyfully Transformed

**“To be a Christian disciple is a rewarding way of life, a way of companionship with Jesus, and the practice of stewardship as a part of it is itself a source of deep joy. Those who live this way are happy people who have found the meaning and purpose of living.” (Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response, 21)**

**T**hink of a time when you felt a deep sense of satisfaction in a job well done. Chances are, what you were doing was not always easy. The extra effort, care or time given came from a heightened sense of responsibility, something you needed to accomplish, that required your talents or time, something only you could do.

Now look back on the whole of your life. How many of those moments of satisfaction stand out to you? What is the cumulative sum of all of the time you have spent with God or others, the talents you have contributed at your work place, parish, or world, the resources you have willingly shared for the sake of others? (30 Days on Stewardship; Reflection #28: “The Steward’s Reward”)

## **Read “The Cleansing of Ten Lepers” - Luke 17:11-19**

- When was a time that you found transformation/healing/reward as the result of returning your gifts to others (and God!) for the growth in your parish, or in your family?

## **Consider a vision for parish transformation:**

“...it is important to lay out a comprehensive view of stewardship—a vision of a sharing, generous, accountable way of life rooted in Christian discipleship—which people can take to heart and apply to the circumstances of their lives.” (Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response, Introduction)

“As individuals grow in their commitment to Christ and to living as good stewards, the parish becomes a community that worships, evangelizes, forms members and serves through the sharing of parishioners. (14) This personal and communal journey of discipleship lived out as stewards has the potential to transform hearts and minds, and to make a lasting change in the life of the parish, for the better.” (17) (Grateful Disciples)

## **Closing Prayer: Choose from the Stewardship Prayers**





# Good and Faithful Stewards

“Next to Jesus, it is the Blessed Virgin Mary who by her example most perfectly teaches the meaning of discipleship and stewardship in their fullest sense. All of the essential elements are found in her life: she was called and gifted by God, she responded generously, creatively and prudently, she understood her divinely assigned role as ‘handmaid’ in terms of service and fidelity.” (*Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, 41; cf. *The Disciple as Steward*, 21-22)

**F**or many, “holiness” is a word we only think about in relationship to the saints, people who lived such extraordinary lives of faith that their witness, living, and charity have inspired generations. The truth is, the saints did and do live holy lives, seeking, knowing, and fulfilling God’s will perfectly.

What we learn from the saints is that holiness is not generic. Living as Christ’s people is very particular—dependent upon the persons we are, the gifts we have been given, and the specific circumstances of our lives. You are not called to be Augustine or Teresa or John Paul, each of whom responded to God’s love as only they could. You are called to be like them in your commitment to draw near to God’s heart, grow as a follower of Jesus, and live in love and charity.

Think of the saint who most inspires you. There is no doubt that this person was a good steward, loving and serving God and others through selfless sharing and sacrifice of the many gifts and blessings that filled his or her life. (*30 Days on Stewardship*; Reflection #9: “Saints”)

**Read “Announcement of the Birth of Jesus” and “Mary Visits Elizabeth”- Luke 1:26-56**

- Is Mary an example that inspires me, or intimidates me? Why?
- What great things has God done for me? What

response have I made and/or will I make to the Lord for his gifts?

- Who is a person (currently living?; a saint?; a spiritual model?) whom I look up to as I grow in deeper discipleship?

**Consider ways for communicating the stewardship message in the spirit of Mary and the saints:**

“Forming people as disciples and stewards requires ongoing communication, using every means possible to lead people to on-going reflection and commitment.” (30) Such examples of these methods include:

- The homily
- The Universal Prayer
- The parish bulletin (or newsletter)
- The parish website/ social media
- E-mail blasts, or mailings
- Lay witness talks
- Faith Formation

(see *Grateful Disciples*, 31-32 for more descriptions)



**Closing Prayer: Choose from the Stewardship Prayers**



# Strengths, Gifts, and Talents

“Stewardship of the Church means cherishing and fostering the gifts of all while using our own gifts to participate in and support the Church’s mission of proclaiming and teaching, serving and sanctifying. ‘This participation takes different forms according to people’s different gifts and offices, but there is a fundamental obligation arising from the sacrament of baptism (Pope John Paul II, *Christifideles Laici*, 15): that people place their gifts, their resources—themselves—at God’s service in and through the church.” (*The Disciple as Steward*, 17)

**H**ave you ever received a gift that left you speechless? Perhaps this was because you knew what went into the gift, the care with which the giver selected it, that conveyed the giver’s love for you. Maybe it was a simple moment of presence, a visit with a loved one in which time stood still... [w]hen we reflect on the love behind the many gifts and blessings that fill our lives—love that is God—we may be struck speechless. We express gratitude for the many gifts and blessings in our lives by giving in return. Knowing that all we are and have is gift, we appreciate that it is given in order to be shared. When you share time and attention, talents and skills, money and resources you are using those gifts in the way God desires. This is faithful stewardship. (*30 Days on Stewardship*; Reflection #4: “Grateful Response”)

## Read “Feeding of the Five Thousand” - John 6:1-15

- How do we express gratitude for gifts that are ultimately priceless in the way we respond with our strengths?
- How can we possibly say “thank you” to God for all we are, have, and will be?
- How can “Stewardship” be a process for each person to discern their calling to use their gifts in serving the parish?

## Consider a “spin” on the three ‘T’s (*Grateful Disciples*):

It is common for parishes to talk about the “three T’s” as they introduce their parishioners to stewardship: Time, Talent, and Treasure. This categorization is helpful in that it provides a way to draw people’s attention to the fact that stewardship is not only about money. However, we fall short if a spiritual foundation is not laid...(11)

There is a direct relationship between the degree to which people are given the opportunity to give of their talents and parish engagement...Strengths development is beneficial to individuals and the faith community. (41)

*Move your parish from a ‘slots to fill’ approach into a strengths-based ministry!* (see the Clifton StrengthsFinder® and “Living Your Strengths” resource)

## Closing Prayer: Choose from the Stewardship Prayers





# Entrusted with Much

“...everything we are, all that we have, is pure gift from God...With this deep and abiding gratitude, we learn to say ‘thank you’ to God by sharing our lives and our resources, living as people of service and mission...”  
(*Grateful Disciples*, 1)

**W**hen our hearts are filled with gratitude, we see ourselves and the world differently. We grow in understanding that a steward does more than simply care for or protect the gifts we have been given. The steward nurtures the gift and makes it fruitful. Life changes when we realize we have been entrusted with much. Our lives are not meant to be frittered away in idle activity, nor are our talents intended to be left unused, life gifts that remain in an unopened box. This is not to say that you should not have leisure time. In fact, keeping Sabbath is essential. You need time to focus on God, to rest, to be renewed in mind, body, and spirit. Sabbath is very much tied to the process of growing as a Steward, because in Sabbath you will more readily recognize who you are called to be and what you are called to do.  
(*30 Days on Stewardship*; Reflection #10: “Entrusted with Much”)

## Read “The Parable of the Talents” - Matthew 25:14-30

- What talents have been entrusted to me, individually?
- What talents have been given collectively to our parish community?
- Which have been multiplied? Which have been ‘buried’?

## Consider parish commitment to annual renewal (*Grateful Disciples*):

Inviting parishioners to make a commitment...provides a way for them to put their faith in Christ into action. They reflect on what faith in Christ and belonging within the Church means to them. (47)

Some parishes ask their parishioners to make a covenant commitment, as a reflection of our covenant relationship with God. The Covenant process typically begins with discussion among parish leaders about what is offered at the parish in the form of worship, community life, pastoral care, ministry, and faith formation, while clarifying expectations for parishioner giving. (49)

## Closing Prayer: Choose from the Stewardship Prayers





# Harvest of the Steward

**“Now, as then and always, it is a central part of the human vocation that we be good stewards of what we have received – this garden, this divine human workshop, this world and all that is in it – setting minds and hearts and hands to the task of creating and redeeming in cooperation with our God, Creator and Lord of all.”  
(Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response, 41)**

**S**tewardship is a meaningful way of life. As stewards, we do not only understand that all is gift, we must acknowledge the particular gifts with which we are entrusted. This is not always easy, not because the gifts are not present, but because many of us have been taught a false sense of humility that downplays any giftedness or special contribution we might make in the world.

When you name the talents and skills you have, for example, you are much more able to offer them in service, sharing, and caring. You may explore the ways your talents equip you to show God’s love in special ways. You might recognize a particular ministry that needs your time, attention, and presence in the way that only you can offer.

By acknowledging that you have particular gifts that are entrusted to you, you may more intentionally make those gifts fruitful. In doing so, you point to God, who is the giver of all good gifts, and give glory to God through your faithful stewardship. (30 Days on Stewardship; Reflection #11: “Cherish, Tend, Make Fruitful”)

**Read “The Laborers are Few” - Matthew 9:35-38  
or “The Rich Young Man” –Mark 10:7-17**

- What is a way in which you have used one of your gifts, talents, or blessings in cooperating with God in achieving His will?

- What fruits (or freedom) have come from you letting go of things that kept you ‘at arms-length’ from God, in order to grow in your service to others?
- How have you shared your gifts, talents, and blessings within your parish community, helping it to achieve shared goals and plans?



**Consider further what is involved in being a laborer for God (Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response, 5):**

Mature disciples make a conscious, firm decision, carried out in action, to be followers of Jesus Christ no matter the cost to themselves. Beginning in conversion, change of mind and heart, this commitment is expressed not in a single action...but in an entire way of life. It means committing one’s very self to the Lord...Disciples who practice stewardship recognize God as the origin of life, the giver of freedom, the source of all they have and are and will be...They are grateful for what they have received and eager to cultivate their gifts out of love for God and one another.

**Closing Prayer: Choose from the Stewardship Prayers**



# All Is Gift

**“And what do Christians bring to the Eucharistic celebration and join there with Jesus’ offering? Their lives as Christian disciples: their personal vocations and the stewardship they have exercised regarding them, their individual contributions to the great work of restoring all things in Christ. Disciples give thanks to God for gifts received and strive to share them with others.” (*The Disciple as Steward*, 18)**

**I**t is one thing to accept intellectually that everything is gift. It is something quite different to believe this with our hearts and to perceive the blessings that surround us. For that, as the U.S. bishops said in their pastoral statement, *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, we need “a flash of insight—a certain way of seeing—by which [we] view the world and [our] relationship to it in a fresh new light” (39).

Seeing the gifts around us requires us to be attentive. We must pay attention in order to see what is already here.

Like any good habit, attentiveness takes practice. It is often a result of quiet stillness, which is not easy for many whose lives are filled to the brim with activity. In order to pay attention, we must develop the habit of noticing things that we otherwise would likely miss: the gift of time with a loved one, a calm peace during prayer, union felt with Christ and others during Mass—glimmers of God’s grace, which once seen suddenly seem everywhere, because they are. (*30 Days on Stewardship*; Reflection #2: “Seeing the Gifts Around Us”)

## **Read “Divine Majesty and Human Dignity” - Psalm 8**

- Stewardship begins with an acknowledgment of the source of our gifts. What great things has God done for you? With what gifts has God blessed your life?
- In what ways do you “collaborate with God in the work

of creation” or “cooperate with God in the work of redemption” in your day-to-day activities?

- In the Eucharist (a word which means “to give thanks”) we join the offering of our lives to Christ’s sacrifice. In what ways do you make this thanksgiving bear fruit for the life of the world?

## **Consider the breadth and scope of our calling as stewards (*Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, 41):**

Genesis, telling the story of creation, says God looked upon what had been made and found it good; and seeing the world’s goodness, God entrusted it to human beings... Now, as then and always, it is a central part of the human vocation that we be good stewards of what we have received — this garden, this divine human workshop, this world and all that is in it — setting minds and hearts and hands to the task of creating and redeeming in cooperation with our God, Creator and Lord of all.

## **Closing Prayer: Choose from the Stewardship Prayers**







# What Might a Good and Faithful Steward Be Doing during the Day?

Recycling • Enjoying dinner out or a walk with his or her spouse • Attending Mass • Cleaning up trash from a park or trail • Volunteering at a soup kitchen • Gathering for a meal at the family dinner table • Inviting someone new to church • Spending some time in prayer and discernment • Doing his or her best in an everyday job • Adopting a pet from a shelter or rescuing a stray • Voting • Donating clothing to those in need • Being a good listener to someone having a tough time • Reading Scripture • Exercising and trying to eat nutritious foods • Playing a game with a child or grandchild • Sharing financial resources with his or her parish or diocese • Carpooling • Welcoming a newcomer at church • Visiting someone in the hospital • Serving on his or her Parish Pastoral Council • Being kind to the person at the check-out counter • Volunteering at his or her parish picnic • Giving a compliment to someone • Teaching in a religious education class for youth or adults • Getting a needed health screening • Attending a Bible Study Group or some other type of faith formation opportunity • Telling someone how much you appreciate something he or she did • Watching a video, reading a book, or taking a course to improve a talent or skill • Saying yes to serve in a ministry • Planting pollinator-friendly flowers in the yard • Making a gratitude list and contemplating all there is to be thankful for each day

*These are some ways in which Stewards like you and me are heeding the call to care for God's gifts of relationships, physical health, faith, community, our natural world, and our Church. All is gift and all are called, as disciples and stewards, to cooperate with God in caring for His creation. What are some of the daily ways in which you are sharing, developing, and making fruitful your gifts, your time, and your resources? What are some of the ways you are helping to maintain, create, and increase God's Kingdom?*



# Resources on Becoming a Steward of God's Gifts

- Anslinger, Leisa. *30 Days on Stewardship: Reflections and Inspirations on Sharing God's Gifts*. Twenty-Third Publications, 2018
- Anslinger, Leisa. *Grateful Disciples: Your Parish Stewardship Guide*. Catholic Life and Faith, 2016.
- Francis. *Evangelii Gaudium: Apostolic Exhortation of the Holy Father Francis to the Bishops, Clergy, Consecrated Persons and the Lay Faithful on the Proclamation of the Gospel in Today's World*. USCCB, Vatican: 2013.
- Hueckel, Sharon. *The Disciple as Steward*. The Catholic Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana, 1994. (Note the suggested song list on p. 23, if you seek to incorporate music into your stewardship formation.)
- Morneau, Robert F. *Embracing a Generous Life: The Joyful Spirituality of Stewardship*. Twenty-Third Publications, 2013.
- Morneau, Robert F. *Embracing Hospitality: 10 Reflections on the Virtue of Welcoming*. Twenty-Third Publications, 2014.
- USCCB. *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*. United States Catholic Conference, Inc. 1993.
- Winsman, Albert L.; Donald O. Clifton, and Curt Liesveld. *Living Your Strengths: Discover your God-Given Talents and Inspire Your Community*. Gallup Press, 2008; 2013.

## Additional Resources:

- Samuel Silent Reflection Prayer, author unknown: <http://www.dioceseofscranton.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Samuel-Silent-Reflection-Prayer.pdf>
- OPL Toolkits: <https://scrantontoolkits.weebly.com/> — Cover areas such as: 'Adult Faith Formation'; 'Communication'; 'Engagement and Outreach; Evangelization; 'Hospitality and Welcoming'. Watch for the Stewardship toolkit in 2019!
- Grateful Disciples' Links: <https://www.gratefuldisciples.net/>  
<https://www.gratefuldisciples.net/diocese-of-scranton/>