

Stewardship



What is Catholic Stewardship?

How Do I Show My Gratitude To God?

Stewardship is a way of life. It begins with grateful recognition that everything we have is a gift from God. When we reflect on that truth, we begin to understand that as good stewards, we are called to take care of those gifts, to use them to build up God's kingdom, and to multiply them, so that we can return them to God through service to Him and others. Stewardship is learning to care about the needs of others rather than focusing only on our own needs. God is calling us to something greater than ourselves. To be a good steward requires a conversion of the heart and a commitment to follow Christ. It is an incredible challenge to live our lives for Christ! In giving our hearts to Jesus, we come to cherish our gifts from God and to thank God with sincere gratitude for our gifts. When we open our hearts to God, He changes our hearts and gives us a capacity to love Him and others more perfectly. It is this love, or charity, that guides us to be good stewards of the Church Jesus established. As members of this spiritual family, the Church, we continue the work Jesus started by proclaiming the good news and serving the people of God. It is what the apostles did, and it is what God asks each one of us to do in gratitude and love as stewards of His Church.

Do I Trust in God?

One of the cornerstones of good stewardship is trust in God. When we trust God, we freely give back to God because we know He will take care of us. We believe that God wants what is good for us. We know that He has a plan for each of us and that it is better than our own plan. God asks us to put our lives in His hands. Jesus' parable about the lilies of the field teaches us not to worry about having clothes to wear or food to eat, but to trust that God will bring into our lives what we need when we need it. He reminds us to seek first the kingdom of God and all else will be given to us. When we live our lives in faithful obedience to God, we can trust that He will provide us with all we need, but maybe not with all we want. Is what we want something that we cannot live without? Will it bring true peace and happiness into our lives? Is it worth sacrificing the kingdom of heaven for what we want?

How Can I Practice Good Stewardship?

As good stewards, we are called to safeguard the gifts that have been entrusted to us. Think about a time when you have left something of value in the care of someone else. Maybe you took a trip and asked a neighbor or friend to watch your plants or your pet. What if, for some reason, your absence was extended for a year or longer? What would you expect to find upon your return? How pleased would you be to find that those things you entrusted to them were not only well-cared for, but were thriving and growing? This also is true for our relationships and in our families. As parents in today's busy world, we are good stewards when we find time to spend together as a family and time to spend with God in prayer. We must also help our children recognize their talents and share them in the home as well as with others in the community and the parish. Families become great witnesses of Christian charity when they serve together in ministry. Good family stewardship also involves responsible budgeting of finances. By managing debt, saving money, and making wise spending choices we can give back to God from our increase by supporting our parish and sharing with those in need.

Am I Being A Good Steward?

Once we recognize that our time, our abilities, and our material goods are truly gifts which God has entrusted to each one of us and we become aware of the many opportunities we have to put our stewardship into practice, we will begin to ask certain questions. What resources, talents, and abilities has God given to me? Do I use them in service to others? How am I living as a good member of the spiritual family in which I was baptized? What qualities in the life of Jesus provide a model for living and an example of good stewardship? Am I prepared to answer God's call to stewardship? What will it cost me in terms of personal sacrifice? Am I willing to take the next step? Am I reaching out to invite others to recognize and share their gifts? Beginning the journey toward good stewardship is an essential step in being a Disciple of Jesus Christ and in living a fruitful, faithful and sanctifying life.