



## “Prayer: Raising Our Minds & Hearts to God”

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In my previous letter to you, I invited you to slow down a bit, to find some time and space to step aside from the busyness of everyday life and join me in a journey of faith. Together I hope we can explore the possibilities of strengthening our Catholic lifestyles – lives marked by prayer, service and sharing. Embracing “stewardship as a way of life” will enable us in further *Advancing the Mission* of Jesus.

Please allow me to use an image of a three-legged stool to illustrate the concept of “stewardship as a way of life.” To support our stool as a model of stewardship, we need three legs all equal in size and strength: one leg for prayer, one for service and one for sharing. If any of the legs are out of balance, longer, or shorter than the others, the stool will be off kilter - out of balance.

Without emphasis on prayer, our three legged stewardship stool cannot stand; it may wobble or even collapse. So too, in our own lives, if we neglect, put-off, or ignore the need to devote quality time to prayer and reflection – our ability to support our Catholic lifestyle will be similarly affected.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church notes that prayer is “Raising our minds and hearts to God...” Through prayer we grow in our relationship with God and God grows in relationship with us. Prayer can take on many forms: blessing and adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving and praise. The Church invites and strongly encourages all to make daily prayer and Sunday Eucharist cornerstones in our “way of life” as Catholics.



Catholics who lead the “way of life” known as stewardship devote time every day to prayers of praise and thanksgiving. They intentionally create quality time, as well as find bits and pieces in the nooks and crannies of their daily lives, to dedicate to prayer. These stewardship minded folks gratefully acknowledge and affirm that every thing they have is truly a gift from God and they recognize the call to be good stewards of these many blessings and gifts. Through prayers of thanksgiving, they cultivate the “attitude of gratitude” that animates the life of a true steward.

As we become more and more aware of the many gifts God has given us, our prayers of thanksgiving turn into prayers of petition. We ask for guidance to help us discern just what does God want us to do with all these gifts we have been given. We stand before our God and ask “What is it Lord, what might you want to accomplish through me and my life? You have blessed me with time, talent, and treasure – how might I use them in *Advancing the Mission* – Your mission here on earth?” We wait for God’s answer, God’s response.

Grateful for our belief that “Nothing Is Impossible with God” I remain,

Your brother in Christ,

Most Reverend David A. Zubik