



## “Talk is Cheap”

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In last week’s letter, I shared some thoughts and ideas on **prayer**. We grow in our awareness of the countless gifts and blessings we have been given through time spent in prayer and reflection. In addition, if we listen carefully, we will hear how God wants us to make use of those gifts in *Advancing the Mission* of the Church, to continue to realize the Kingdom of God here, today, in our world.

I so hope you were able to spend some additional quality time in prayer this past week; time spent opening your heart and mind to the Holy Spirit and that you find yourself now ready to take the next step in our reflection on Catholic Stewardship. Remember my image of the three-legged stool? The second leg that supports *Stewardship as a Way of Life* is one of **service**.

The old adage goes, “Talk is cheap—actions speak louder than words.” This must have been penned by a true steward! With our increasing awareness of the many gifts with which God has blessed us, we seek to return to God, in both small and great ways, a proportion of these gifts through acts of service. Stewards are called to use their time and talents in service to our families, our friends, our parish, the greater community in which we live, as well as the world, through acts of volunteerism.

In Matthew’s Gospel 25:31-46, we find a compelling last judgment scene. This passage challenges each of us to consider what it will be like to stand before God and be asked, “What did you do with the gifts you were given? How did you use your time and talents to serve others?” If God asked us today to review our pocket planners, palm pilots, or family calendars, what evidence of our commitment to serve in God’s name might be found?

Service can take many shapes and forms. Depending on your own unique individual life situation, the primary arena for service may be to members of your own household – to children or to aging parents. For some, it may be in the workplace, in service and care for co-workers, customers, or clients. And for others, God’s call to service may be at or through the parish or a non-profit organization in the greater community. Your efforts to serve your neighbors, to build God’s kingdom, *Advancing the Mission*, regardless of specific details, are to be affirmed.

The challenge I would like all of us to consider this week is to take a long look at our personal calendars and our busy, busy lives and prayerfully evaluate how we might strengthen our commitments to serving others. Listen carefully for the promptings of God’s spirit. God has blessed each and every one of us with unique talents, skills, and gifts we can share. Let us be intentional in responding to an additional allocation of time, of care and concern for others through some new or different way of service.

As Mother Teresa once said, “None of us can do everything but each of us can do something.” As I travel around the diocese, I look forward to hearing how or where this week’s stewardship challenge leads each of you in *Advancing the Mission*, the mission of Jesus.

Grateful for our belief that “Nothing Is Impossible with God” I remain,  
Your brother in Christ,



Most Reverend David A. Zubik