



## “If You Dare - Commit”

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Over the past several weeks, we have been reflecting on Stewardship. Together we have considered the various aspects of such a way of life using the image of a three legged stool; three, equally important “legs” of prayer, service, and sharing are necessary to support a balanced, well-grounded stool. I have encouraged you to call upon the Spirit of God through prayer, to be open to a change of heart, no longer believing we actually “own” our many gifts and blessings. I hope I have encouraged you to consider a new mindset, or better yet, a new “heartset” as caretakers of these many gifts and blessings in *Advancing the Mission*—the mission of Jesus here on earth.

As I reflected on what I might say in this last letter to you, I am reminded of the story of the Rich Young Man in Matthew’s Gospel 19:16-26. A young man approaches Jesus and inquires as to what he must do to obtain everlasting life. Jesus asks if he follows the commandments to which the young man says he does indeed. Jesus then instructs the young man to give away all his many riches and live as a disciple of Jesus. The young man turns away; he cannot bring himself to take that next step and give himself fully to the Lord.



It is my hope and prayer that our exploration of *Stewardship as a Way of Life* through my letters to you will assist you in turning more fully to the Lord through your own commitment to prayer, service, and sharing. It is my hope that through **prayer** you develop your relationship with God and nurture a greater attitude of gratitude for the many gifts you have received from God. It is my hope that you can turn more fully towards God through a greater use of your time and talent in **service** to the Church and in the community in which you live. And finally, it is my hope that you will take an honest look at how you are using your treasure – your financial assets and have begun to make changes to the ways you **share** it.

In the end, the choice is yours. Awareness is the first step to a change in thinking; to consider a change of heart, to consider embracing a lifestyle marked by new levels of prayer, service and sharing. Yet before any real change can take place, a commitment is necessary; a commitment to translating this newfound awareness into a concrete plan of action.

As part of either your morning or evening prayers this week, my final invitation to you is to consider taking the risk to stand before the Lord and ask, “What is it Lord, what do you want to do through my life?” Listen carefully. Have trust, know God will provide you whatever you need to follow through on what God is calling you to do. Know that my thoughts and prayers are with you. Thank you for joining with me 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