

The Stewardship of Service

My parish is my spiritual “home base”. Together we celebrate the sacraments and model the life of Jesus as a community rooted in the Good News.

It is a community of faith where I join others to become nourished with the spiritual energy to return to the Lord the gifts of prayer, service, and sharing.



PRAY
REFLECT
THEN GET INVOLVED!

WHAT WILL *YOU* RETURN
TO THE LORD?

*“Stewardship is everything
you do after you say
yes to Jesus Christ.”
Clarence Stoughton*

Stewardship of Service



Receive God’s gifts gratefully



Cultivate them responsibly



*Share them lovingly in justice
with others, and*



*Return them with increase to
the Lord!*

(from U.S. Bishops’ Pastoral Letter
“Stewardship – A Disciple’s Response”)

*What will you
return to the Lord?*



Your Parish Name

Stewardship of Service

*What Shall
I
Return
To
The
Lord?*



*Returning gifts to the Lord
By using my gifts and talents
In the parish and the community.*

Stewardship of Service

1. *Receive God's Gifts Gratefully*

Realize that you possess gifts and talents. Sharing your talents through service develops and utilizes the skills that God has given to you as pure gift. Search out the talents you possess, nurture them, and help them grow. Everybody has skills. Everybody can have a role in the service of God and in the work of the church. In the words of the late Mother Theresa of Calcutta,

“The call of Christianity is not always to do monumental and extraordinary things, but to do the ordinary things of everyday life well and with love.”

2. *Cultivate your Gifts Responsibly*

Assess your life as it exists in the present moment. Look at your status single or married, with or without children. Examine all the people you come into contact with on a daily basis, family, co-workers, community, and parish and the varied ways that you serve others. Jesus calls each of us to a life of service, not because someone has a need to receive, but because we have a need to give.

3. *Share Your Gifts Lovingly and in Justice with Others*

Take action – call the parish for ideas on how you can serve others. As we share our gifts, they multiply enriching our lives and the lives of the people around us. The Stewardship of Service successfully bridges the material world around us and the world of the Spirit within us.

Ideas for Christian Service

Smile

Talk to people

Pray together

Be available

Delight in each other's uniqueness

Ask for help

Pick up trash in park

Build something together

Create a tradition and honor it

Visit the sick

Shovel with out being asked

Tape record a message to someone

Who is alone

Encourage others to think big

Write a letter to someone far away

Help at a local food pantry

Pray for peace and joy

Chaperone a dance

Include others in conversations

Talk to people by name

You give life to a family by doing such simple things as taking a grandparent out of the nursing home for a ride, bring a meal to a sick neighbor, helping to build homes for poor people, working in a soup kitchen, recycling you goods, working to improve school, or joining a political action on behalf of those treated unjustly.

United States Catholic Bishops
Follow the Way Of Love, 1994