



Stewardship Reflections

August 16, 2009

God's Treasure Chests

Treasure is a collection of riches. It is not confined to a single large item but is usually thought of as a cache of many smaller valuable objects. There may be several large shiny cups or pieces of jewelry in the lost treasure chest, but mostly it is filled with coins of silver and gold, copper pennies and glass beads. Historians tell us that the Hollywood archetype of the swashbuckling pirate was, in reality, pretty much a fantasy (like most things created in Tinsel Town). Along with the glittering contents of the iconic hidden treasure could be found navigational tools, medicine, a couple bottles of rum, and, to the unknowing, items that appear to be worthless. While old letters, a daughter's lock of hair, or mementos of significant life events may not have possessed any monetary worth, they still held great value to the sentimental owner.

Each of us is a human treasure chest created by a loving and generous God. He has given us many valuable traits, talents, and skills that form the foundation of the treasure we talk about in stewardship. And like most treasure chests, our inner self, too, can remain hidden, closed, and unexamined sometimes for many years. Before we can offer to share our treasures in a spirit of Christian stewardship, we must inventory them. And, not unlike the contents of a real pirate's chest, we are likely to find a mixed assortment of items when we take stock openly and honestly. Old favorites like burned bridges, baggage from the hurts and fears that accompany us in this valley of tears and fragments of charred memories nestled in among the glittering goodies.

However, we as Christians are challenged to identify the items that can be of value to our community; our individualized personal treasures that can contribute to the greater good of those who share their spiritual life at St. Boniface. These items we pull out, shine up and offer them back to our Creator in gratitude. After all, God is the source of everything good in our lives; our time, treasure, and talents merely on loan to us during our short sojourn here.

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