



Stewardship Reflections

July 26, 2009

What is Catholic Stewardship?

Stewardship is a way of life, a practical form of spirituality. It is a conversion of heart, a disciple's response, an expression of love, part of the Christian's baptismal call; centered in the Eucharist. Simply put, stewardship is nothing more and nothing less than radical discipleship, the following of Christ no matter what the cost.

"Stewardship is also profoundly counter-cultural. It challenges us to think of ourselves as stewards rather than as consumers. A steward is one who takes care of someone else's property. As believers, we know that this property is God's. All our talents, the hours and days of our lifetime, and the material possessions we have come from God. Good stewards realize this. They receive God's gifts gratefully, cherish and tend them in a responsible and accountable manner, share them in justice and love with all, and return them to God with increase.

The stewardship process begins with a reflection on gifts of talent, time and treasure. God, in His eternal generosity, has blessed each one of us with some of each talent, in different proportions to be sure, but we all have something to offer in return. So we begin with a thoughtful, honest, and prayerful reflection on each of our talents.

Talent: In order to best know how to be grateful for my talents, I must know them. One way is to answer the questions: What am I good at doing and because I am good at it, what do I enjoy? Now that I have a sense of my talents, how will I share them?

Time: Good questions for reflection on this gift might be: How do I spend my time? Where do I spend my time? Does how I use my time help me and/or others have a closer relationship to the Lord and others?

Treasure: In thinking about treasure, some questions that consistently need to be asked are: Do I really need this or do I want it? Do I trust God enough to share this gift? Am I using this gift in ways that are pleasing to God? How can I better use my treasure (material goods) in the service of the Lord and my neighbor?

(Courtesy Diocese of Toledo, USA)