

Stewardship Foundations

Stewardship is an answer to Jesus' call to "follow me." At the heart of stewardship is the belief that everything we have—our talents, time and treasures— and all we accumulate during our lifetime, are gifts on loan to us from a generous and abundant God. Equally important is acknowledging that these gifts have been shared with us for a purpose. That purpose is to fulfill God's will for the entire world.

Love is the foundation

Stewardship is founded in love. Love for God and love for one another. Because of God's great love for us God has entrusted us with abundant gifts. And as trustees we are called to develop gifts wisely and responsibly. They are not for us to hoard but to share with justice and love for others. They are not for us to use to fulfill our own needs but rather to fulfill God's plan. And in thanksgiving for all God has given us, we are generous to return a first fruits portion of these gifts— with increase—to the Lord.

An orientation of mind and heart

Stewardship is not an option but a baptismal responsibility. It is not a part of our life as disciples of Christ but the essence of our life and faithful witness here on earth. Stewardship encompasses how we live each and every day. It effects how we act in all of our relationships and seeks to establish a new economy within the present worldly context. Stewardship has the power to change how we understand and live out our lives.

The life of a Christian steward

The life of a Christian steward is not without challenges but it is also filled with intense joys. Because our heart goes where we invest God's gifts, with stewardship comes:

- a deeper relationship with God
- a greater sense of belonging and purpose
- a more meaningful life
- the opportunity to become a collaborator in God's work
- an antidote for materialism
- a life marked by generosity, sacrifice and love, and not self-centeredness

Fulfilling our role as stewards

God has a unique role for each of us to fulfill while on earth. And as stewards it is our responsibility to prayerfully answer two questions:

1. What gifts an abundant and generous God has given to me?
2. Why did God give these gifts to me?