

Dear Friends,

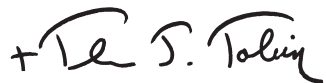
In living our lives as good stewards of God's varied graces, we follow the example set by Jesus, the perfect steward, and imitate His way of life. True love, devotion, and gratitude to God make us eager to cultivate and share our many gifts of time, talent, and treasure with others. Carried out in action, this life-long commitment affords each of us a wonderful opportunity to strengthen and grow in our personal relationship with the Lord.

In their Pastoral Letter on Stewardship entitled *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, the bishops of the United States focus on our discipleship with Jesus Christ, which ultimately leads to the practice of stewardship. The bishops write, "Disciples who practice stewardship recognize God as the origin of life, the giver of freedom, the source of all they have and are and will be."

There will, of course, be obstacles and challenges along the way as we embark on our stewardship journey of faith. Today in our secular culture, we are sometimes encouraged to be self-centered rather than God centered. I am reminded, however, of the scriptural passage in Romans 8:28, which states, "All things work for those who love God."

I am personally grateful to each of you for embracing stewardship as a way of life. As a Christian steward, you have willingly accepted your vocation and role in life. Thank you for keeping the spirit of stewardship alive within the Diocese of Providence. Please be assured of my prayers that our loving and caring God will continue to bestow His countless blessings upon you and your family.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas J. Tobin
Bishop of Providence



DIOCESE
OF
PROVIDENCE

Stewardship:

*Our
Parish
Journey*



TIME · TALENT · TREASURE

TIME

The time given to us as stewards of this earth is a precious gift, which God wants us to use wisely.

We must never forget that Jesus was born “in the fullness of time” and saved us in human history. We are born in time, Baptized in time and invited to live lives of faith within the precious gift of time.

Time is a consumable but non-renewable gift. Therefore, the faithful and responsible celebration of time is a vital part of Christian Stewardship.



“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”

1 Peter 4:10



TIME

God gives us many gifts - our faith, the love and affection of friends and family, our possessions - to name but a few. As good stewards, as good Catholics, we need to discover more and better ways to express our gratitude.

As individuals and as members of the community of faith, we have been blessed with many talents. Stewardship invites us to offer our gifts and talents to our parish and community in order to build up the kingdom of God on earth. Some are able to organize, some are teachers, still others have the ability to visit the sick and listen with great care.

Talents are not better or worse, talents are just different. Together we can always do more than when we act alone. We are not called to be passive beneficiaries but active participants in the work of God.

TALENT



“There are different kinds of gifts but the same spirit: there are different forms of service but the same Lord.”

1 Corinthians 12:4



TALENT

TREASURE

We have all been blessed with riches. We live in a land of plenty and reap the benefits. Stewardship invites us to recognize how God blesses our efforts and enriches our lives. When we recognize God’s part in our lives and His part in our success, we will be eager to make a return to God for all He gives us.

It is not enough to just thank God; we must make a return to God from our possessions. True Stewardship of Treasure should flow from our need to give and not be tempered by a response to proven need.

Responding to a proven need is charity. Charity is important, but far less than true Stewardship. True Stewardship is much more than charity because it responds to a need in our hearts more than a need in our world.



“It is in giving that we receive...”

Prayer of St. Francis



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