

# THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

**Consider using these in your Sunday bulletin, newsletter, correspondence, and on your closed-circuit TV.**

- ♦ The purpose of life is not to be happy — but to matter, to be productive, to be useful, to have it make some difference that you have lived at all. ~Leo Rosten
- ♦ Be a little light in someone's world today.

The life of Jesus is a life for others. It is a life of service. – Pope Francis, WYD2013

We are called to be wise in the way we use the days God gives to us, not to be self-indulgent, but to allow the Holy Spirit to walk with us and remind us to praise God. Let us ask God to help us not to waste time, but to use it thoughtfully and to be a blessing to other people. - Scripture Union USA

Never measure your generosity by what you give, but rather by what you have left. – Fulton Sheen

The biggest disease today is not leprosy or tuberculosis, but rather the feeling of being unwanted. Mother Teresa

Let us not be satisfied with just giving money. Money is not enough, money can be got, but they need your hearts to love them. So, spread your love everywhere you go. Mother Teresa

Read more at: [http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/m/mother\\_teresa.html](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/m/mother_teresa.html) I cannot imagine a Christian who does not know how to smile. – Pope Francis

Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love.— St. Therese of Lisieux

What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like. – St. Augustine

What Jesus says to us in his word is radically different than what the world around you says. The world says “big homes, nice cars and fancy clothes are the mark of success.” Jesus tells us our treasures on earth will be destroyed by moth and rust, and will be pilfered by thieves. He commands us to build up treasures in Heaven. You have to pick whose side you’re on. You can only pick one. Whose words will you follow?

your life needs to be focused on God’s Kingdom. If you understand that, you get it. If you don’t, you miss it and nothing in your life will matter. It will all be a waste.

The late Msgr. Thomas McGread said "the real success of stewardship in our parish is found in the hearts of the people. Without a conversion of heart, no one is able to give themselves as Christ asked us to do." How we live our lives says more about us than what we say.

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Question: When you stand before God and He asks what you have done with the gifts He has given you, how will you respond?

Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, it is the parent of all others. - Cicero

- ♦ I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day;  
I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way:  
The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear,  
fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear.  
~ Edgar Guest, The Peoples Poet
- ♦ There is only one Call! To build the Body of Christ based on your unique strengths.
- ♦ Use your gifts: Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire – St. Catherine of Siena
- ♦ Why not keep a record for one week of how you spend your time? How much to the church and community organizations get of that time? How much time is spent in prayer?
- ♦ The measure of a life well lived is the virtue that continues to grow in the lives of those who were touched by it.
- ♦ Stewardship reminds us to count our blessings, acknowledge God's gifts to us and express thanks to him by a proportionate giving of our time, talent and treasure.
- ♦ God has given each of us some special abilities. It is important that we use them to help one another, passing on to others the many blessings that God has given us.
- ♦ If we give ourselves to God and let him use our talents to serve others we will be amazed by the results. Not only will our lives be changed but so will the lives of others.
- ♦ The heart grateful to Gods needs to find a way to express that gratitude. Some important ways to do that are through prayer, through service and through giving of one's resources.
- ♦ In a life committed to stewardship we are called to "possess lightly." Jesus taught about the danger of clutching to material possessions and pointed to the real treasures available to us in life.
- ♦ "The poor call to us. We have to be aware of them in order to love them. We have to ask ourselves if we know the truth. Do we know the poor in our own homes?" Mother Teresa
- ♦ Life's persistent and most urgent question is, "What are you doing for others?" - Martin Luther King Jr.
- ♦ Stewardship is what is in our hearts and minds coming out in our hands and feet.
- ♦ *Have you found that enough is never quite enough? Do you think to pray for the grace to be free of the attachment to wealth?* Read what Pope Francis has said: The thirst that comes from attachment to riches never ends. If you have your heart attached to wealth – when you have so much – you want more. This is the god of the person who is attached to riches.

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- ♦ We should to keep our hearts open to the sufferings and wretchedness of other people, and pray continually that God may grant us that spirit of compassion which is truly the spirit of God." — St. Vincent de Paul
- ♦ You have a gift. You have a talent. Find your gift. Find your talent. And use it. You can make life better in this world just by letting your light shine and by doing your part. ~Sr. Thea Bowman

When we attend to the needs of those in want, we give them what is theirs, not ours. More than performing works of mercy, we are paying a debt of justice. — Pope Saint Gregory the Great

- ♦ Let us rise up and be thankful,  
for if we didn't learn a lot today,  
at least we learned a little,  
and if we didn't learn a little,  
at least we didn't get sick,  
and if we got sick,  
at least we didn't die;  
so, let us all be thankful. — The Buddha

- ♦ There is a calmness to a life lived in gratitude, a quiet joy. — Ralph H. Blum

- ♦ He is a wise man who does not grieve for the things he has not, but rejoices for those which he has. — Epictetus
- ♦ Stewardship is what is in our hearts and minds coming out in our hands and feet.
- ♦ Gratitude is the heart's memory. — French proverb.
- ♦ Gratitude is something of which none of us can give too much. For on the smiles, the thanks we give, our little gestures of appreciation, our neighbors build their philosophy of life. — A.J. Cronin
- ♦ The greatest thing is to give thanks for everything. He who has learned this knows what I means to live. He has penetrated the whole mystery of life: giving thanks for everything. — Albert Schweitzer
- ♦ To speak gratitude is courteous and pleasant, to enact gratitude is generous and noble, but to live gratitude is to touch Heaven. — Johannes A. Gaertner
- ♦ I would rather have it said "he lived usefully" than "he died rich" — Benjamin Franklin
- ♦ Without love, deeds, even the most brilliant, count as nothing. — St. Therese of Lisieux
- ♦ The deeds you do may be the only sermon some people will hear today. — St. Francis of Assisi

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- ♦ The biggest disease is not leprosy or tuberculosis, but rather the feeling of being unwanted. – Blessed Mother Teresa
- ♦ In his encyclical letter, *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis encourages “care for creation through little daily actions” and “changes in lifestyle,” for example, through “avoiding the use of plastic and paper, reducing water consumption, separating refuse, cooking only what can reasonably be consumed, showing care for other living beings, using public transport or car-pooling, planting trees, turning off unnecessary lights, or any number of other practices” (*Laudato Si'*, no. 211).
- ♦ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to SERVE OTHERS, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. – 1 Peter 4:10
- ♦ Little things done out of love are those that charm the Heart of Christ. - St. Therese of Lisieux
- ♦ If you truly want to help the soul of your neighbor, you should approach God first with all your heart. Ask him simply to fill you with charity, the greatest of all virtues; with it you can accomplish what you desire. — St. Vincent Ferrer
- ♦ The good man is like a tree planted by the water-side that will bring forth its fruit in due season, because when a soul is watered with charity, it brings forth good works seasonably and with discretion." — St. Francis de Sales
- ♦ Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not. ~ Dr. Seuss
- ♦ The willingness to share does not make one charitable; it makes one free. ~Robert Brault, rbrault.blogspot.com
- ♦ Act, and God will act, work and He will work— St. Joan of Arc
- ♦ The commitment to be a follower of Jesus Christ is expressed not in a single action, or even in a number of actions over a period of time, but in an entire way of life. – Introduction to the pastoral letter *Stewardship: A Disciples Response*
- ♦ You can use these all at once, or one a day:
  - I’m glad my church needs money!** If it didn’t it would mean it wasn’t supporting missionaries and preaching the Gospel in other places and has no missionary zeal.
  - I’m glad my church needs money!** If it didn’t, it would mean it wasn’t doing anything to support the homeless and needy and had no compassion.
  - I’m glad my church needs money!** If it didn’t, it would mean it wasn’t interested in providing wholesome activities for our teenagers and had no concern.
  - I’m glad my church needs money!** If it didn’t, it would mean it wasn’t interested in teaching children in those impressionable years and had no future.
- ♦ Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it. – William Arthur Ward

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- ♦ Nothing is more honorable than a grateful heart. – Seneca
- ♦ We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures. – Thornton Wilder
- ♦ We tend to forget that happiness doesn't come as a result of getting something we don't have, but rather of recognizing and appreciating what we do have. – Frederick Keonig
- ♦ If a person's religion does not affect their use of money, that person's religion is in vain.
- ♦ Christian Stewards see the world, creation as God's gift. – Introduction to the pastoral letter Stewardship: A Disciple's Response
- ♦ Stewardship means understanding God is in charge.
- ♦ If I can stop one heart from breaking,  
I shall not live in vain;  
If I can ease one life the aching,  
Or cool one pain,  
Or help one fainting robin  
Unto his nest again,  
I shall not live in vain. (Bishop Robert Morneau quoting Emily Dickinson)
- ♦ "In your heart God has excavated an immense space where he has placed a precious treasure. From now on you have the twofold duty of receiving and giving: sharing the treasure of the kingdom you bear within you and stretching the area of your tent for those around you." ~Anonymous
- ♦ How shall I make a return to the Lord for all the good he has done for me? (Psalm 116:12)
- ♦ The cornerstone of stewardship is gratitude. Do you have radical gratitude or perpetual dissatisfaction? – Mary Joe Letty "*Radical Gratitude*" (quoted by Bishop Robert Morneau, 4/27/13)
- ♦ I am a caretaker and a trustee. I own nothing. – Bishop Robert Morneau, 4/27/13
- ♦ The main thing is to know the main thing and to keep the main thing the main thing... And the main thing is *relationships*... relationship with God and with each other. – Bishop Robert Morneau
- ♦ The problem is not in being rich. In fact there are many rich people in the Bible who are blessed by God. The problem is with our attitude towards worldly things. Society tells us that only things can make us important and bring us true happiness. We have forsaken God for our possessions. – Jon Bean, Compass Catholic Ministries
- ♦ In today's world, we are constantly deluged with the idea that the only way we can be happy is if we purchase the next greatest thing that is being advertised. We need a new car, new clothes, or a new electronic gadget. The First Commandment tells us that we should not "have strange gods before me."

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In this secular society, how many people actually keep the First Commandment and honor God above all else? Have I treated people, events or things as more important than God? - Jon Bean, Compass Catholic Ministries

- ♦ When we fall into the trap of our American culture, we are focusing our desires and betting our happiness on worldly objects and not on God. We are making these worldly objects our “strange god” and making them more important than God. - Jon Bean, Compass Catholic Ministries
- ♦ Too often in the church, we only talk about money when it’s time for fundraising and we call it “stewardship”. But true stewardship is a message that can change hearts. It’s about a transformation that takes place in a person’s mind as it relates to attitudes about earthly possessions, and responsibilities to manage, to steward, all that God has blessed us with. - Jon Bean, Compass Catholic Ministries
- ♦ Steward-disciples recognize God as the origin of life, the giver of freedom, the source of all they have and are. They see themselves as caretakers of God’s gifts. They are grateful for what they have received and are eager to cultivate their gifts out of love for God and one another. - USCCB pastoral letter on stewardship 1993
- ♦ A smile across a subway aisle can stay a suicide. Smile. – Bishop Robert Morneau, 4/27/13

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- ♦ Bishop Robert Morneau says: “You can tell a person’s life by the adverbs they live...”
  - To receive God’s gifts.....gratefully
  - To nurture/tend God’s gifts....responsibly
  - To share God’s gifts.....justly/charitably
  - To return God’s gifts.....abundantly
- ♦ “Embrace with tender affection the whole of humanity, especially the poorest, the weakest, the least important...” – Pope Francis, 2013
- ♦ As we actively work to develop the talents and abilities God has given us and as we actively seek to know and do his will on a daily basis, we are working with our Creator God to produce the strengths and fulfill the plans, purposes and intentions God has for us. – *Towards a Theology of Strengths*, Edward C. Anderson
- ♦ God said to me, “I could well have made human beings in such a way that they each had everything, but I preferred to give different gifts to different people, so that they would need each other.” St. Catherine of Siena
- ♦ The talents and abilities God created in us are inextricably linked to God’s will, God’s purpose, God’s plan for our lives. *Towards a Theology of Strengths*, Edward C. Anderson



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- ♦ When we are doing what God created us to do – fully using the strengths, talents and abilities he has given us, and when we are operating on the basis of the power of the Holy Spirit – we are at our very best! *Towards a Theology of Strengths*, Edward C. Anderson
  - ♦ We have to humble ourselves, and the way you do that is by serving other people. -- Tim Tebow
  - ♦ For maximum joy in giving, put your money where your heart is! - Matthew 6:21
  - ♦ The promotion of the practice of stewardship is important for the mission of the Church and for the spiritual well-being of each individual Christian. Everyone benefits from the sacrificial gift one makes of his time, talent, and treasure. – Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI
  - ♦ ...Now, we will see that our “giving” is not about what of my stuff am I going to give to the Lord, it is about what of God’s stuff am I going to make available for His purposes. With this proper reorientation of our relationship to our stuff, we are now free to have the attitude that can say quite literally, “What is mine is yours and you can have it.” Because we understand that none of it is ours in the first place. [www.stewardshipministries.org](http://www.stewardshipministries.org)
  - ♦ Corrie ten Boom understood this intense struggle to cling to our stuff and advised us to, “Hold everything in your hands lightly; otherwise it hurts when God pries your fingers open.” You will never experience joyful giving if God is always having to pry your fingers open to deploy some of His stuff.
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- ♦ Remember, it is not a sin to possess things, but it is a sin for things to possess you. We need to surrender all our stuff. [www.stewardshipministries.org](http://www.stewardshipministries.org)
  - ♦ William MacDonald takes this surrender of our security even one step further when he proposes, “God’s will is that we should be in a perpetual crisis of dependence on Him. We defeat His will when we lay up treasures on earth.” You see, we cannot allow trusting in God to be our last resort. It must be our only resort. [www.stewardshipministries.org](http://www.stewardshipministries.org)
  - ♦ Ephesians 4:19 is a troubling verse about unbelievers which might apply to us, “Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.” It is that last phrase that is troubling – “a continual lust for more.” In our materialistic society that is obsessed with things, could we also be guilty of having “a continual lust for more” – the latest technology, a newer car, more clothes, more money? You get my point. If we find ourselves, never quite content with what we have and always looking to have more, we may be on the slippery slope of materialism that will lead us to no good end. Hebrews 13:5 says, “be content with what you have.” Are you? Think about it. - E. G. “Jay” Link, President, Stewardship Ministries
  - ♦ Good stewards are formed, they are not forced.
  - ♦ Good stewards are formed by Good Stewards.
  - ♦ "Good steward" is not a title, it is a way we live like Jesus Christ

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- ♦ A Good steward does not give until it hurts, he/she gives until it helps.
- ♦ The first question of a good steward is: "For what am I responsible?"
- ♦ A Good Steward accepts responsibility for:  
A faith that is mature and constantly growing  
A prayer life that is more about what I am willing to hear from God than what I want to say to God  
All of the talents, abilities and gifts that God has given us, including Time and Treasure.
- ♦ A Good Steward is responsible for the welfare and well-being of his/her community of faith.
- ♦ A Good Steward is a responsible evangelist who helps others find their faith and not bring our faith to them unless it is in the form of showing them our faith in action. -- We show them our faith, which gives us the credibility to tell them. If we don't show them our faith first, they are not going to believe what we tell them.
- ♦ The first response of a good steward may be "Lord, I don't want to do that!" The ultimate response of a good steward is, "Yes, Lord!"
- ♦ For disciples of Jesus Christ, stewardship is not an option; it is an obligation of our baptism.
- ♦ Good stewardship is not a destination, it is a way of getting to eternal life.
- ♦ A full stewardship parish is not a goal. It is a way of achieving many goals
- ♦ I must not cheat the Lord and call it economizing.
- ♦ From love of money; from hardness of heart contempt for your word; and your laws--Good Lord deliver us.
- ♦ If I belong to Christ it is logical that even my money belongs to him.
- ♦ If I am not giving willingly then there is not much point in giving at all.
- ♦ I think seriously about my giving because I think seriously about my faith.
- ♦ God does not hold back so why should I?
- ♦ Generosity solely on my terms is no generosity at all.
- ♦ If I cannot give much God understands. If I can give *more* and don't God knows.
- ♦ Give out of love and gratitude. Not for the needs of the church.
- ♦ Thank you Lord for teaching me how to give.



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- ♦ On the Day of Judgment I don't want my giving record to sound a bit thin.
- ♦ You cannot take your money with you but you *can* send it on ahead!
- ♦ I know I suffer when I neglect my prayer life, my worship, and my giving.
- ♦ If I gave to God half as much as I give to my grandchildren money would be coming out of the church's ears.
- ♦ God isn't afraid of giving too much, why am I?
- ♦ My use of money shows what I think of God.
- ♦ When you consider yourself in the role of "manager" rather than "owner," how does this change how you view your stuff? - E. G. "Jay" Link, *Who's In Charge Here?*
- ♦ Take a couple of minutes and make a list of all that you own (no values, just descriptions). After reading Psalm 24:1 and Psalm 50:10-12, do you think your balance sheet should look differently – or possibly be blank – because you own nothing? - E. G. "Jay" Link, *Who's In Charge Here?*
- ♦ **“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”** - *Matthew 6:2* Treasure. What a word. As a noun, it speaks of riches, usually stored up. It may speak of any precious items that are valuable to you. As a verb, it speaks of collecting or storing up things of value. It means holding on to those things that you love the most. In other words, we treasure our treasures. In asking where is our treasure, we answer the question where is our heart. And maybe even who or what are we serving. For me, one of the main points in this Gospel passage is my relationship with Jesus. Am I seeking a real, vibrant relationship with God? It is not too difficult to think of examples of men and women who have laid up for themselves treasures upon the earth, thus showing where their heart truly is. – Eric Cambier, Maryknoll Lay Missioners
- ♦ How do you think asking this one question, “God, what do You want me to do today with what You have entrusted to me” will change your life if you were to earnestly and sincerely pray it each morning? - E. G. "Jay" Link, *Who's In Charge Here?*
- ♦ “God, what do You want me to do with all that You have entrusted to me?” We all seem to be more than willing to acknowledge that God owns everything, but we still seem to continue making all the decisions regarding what we do with what we have. The ultimate objective of our stewardship (management) of God's property is to do with it what he (the owner) wants us (the managers) to do with it. What we want to do with our stuff is frankly irrelevant. - E. G. "Jay" Link, *Who's In Charge Here?*
- ♦ We are all routinely guilty of intellectually acknowledging that God owns everything, while we live, spend, and invest like it is all our own. The cornerstone of stewardship is full acknowledgment and consistent practice of allowing God to direct what He wants done with what He has entrusted us to manage. - E. G. "Jay" Link, *Who's In Charge Here?*

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- ♦ Can you imagine how your personal life would change if each morning as you rose from your bed, you were to genuinely and humbly pray, “Okay, Lord, all that I am and all that I have are at your disposal today. What are your plans for me and my stuff today? Not my will, but Thy will be done this day.” - E. G. "Jay" Link, *Who's In Charge Here?*
- ♦ If sacrificing our lives is the maximum sacrifice we might be called to make as a steward, it seems to put into a clear context the modest sacrifices we make when we give some of the money, or the time or the talents we have been given to manage to help others. So, would the word sacrificial describe your life? - E. G. "Jay" Link, *Who's In Charge Here?*
- ♦ When we calculate what we are worth, are we looking at what we have here and now or what we will have then and there? What we keep now, we will lose forever and what we lose now, we will keep forever. - E. G. "Jay" Link, *Who's In Charge Here?*
- ♦ Do you find yourself drawn to the newest technology gadget, a bigger or better car, another exotic travel destination, the latest fashion, a newer or bigger home, or another way to make more money? Is your life characterized by wanting and getting more stuff? Solomon again warns us in Ecclesiastes 6:7, “All man’s efforts are for his mouth, yet his appetite is never satisfied.” Is your appetite satisfied with what you have right now or will it take more?
- ♦ You may recall in Daniel where God writes on the wall an unreadable message to King Belshazzar. He calls for Daniel to interpret God’s message. Daniel translates, “You praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone... [temporal assets]. But you did not honor the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways... You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting [eternal assets]” (Daniel 5:23b, 27). We must be ever mindful that on God’s eternal scales, our accumulated, temporal assets, no matter how great they might be, weigh nothing. - E. G. "Jay" Link, *Who's In Charge Here?*
- ♦ What resources, talents, and abilities has God given me? Do I use them in service to others? How might I take the next step to become a more effective steward?
- ♦ What qualities in the life of Jesus provide a model for living and an example of good stewardship? How might they compare to my own life and experience?
- ♦ If I am to work to be an effective Christian steward, with the help of God’s grace, what will it cost me in terms of personal sacrifice and hardship? Am I willing to take the next step?
- ♦ How am I reaching out to invite others to recognize their gifts? What opportunities do I provide for them to employ those gifts for the good of the community?
- ♦ The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.....Gandhi (1869-1948)
- ♦ Vibrant stewards embrace financial health as an expression of faith. We allow money to flow to and through our lives in ways that nourish us and our world. We recognize that our capacity to give is defined by our hearts, not our pocketbooks. - Michele Hermansen, Luther Seminary

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- ♦ You are my God and I will praise you; you are my God and I will exalt you.
- ♦ Give thanks to the Lord for he is good. Ps. 118: 28-29
- ♦ Isn't it strange that princes and kings  
And clowns that caper in sawdust ring  
And common folk like you and me  
Are builders of eternity?  
To each is given a bag of tools  
An hourglass and a book of rules  
And each must build ere life has flown  
A stumbling block or a stepping stone  
- R.L. Sharpe: Stumbling Blocks or Stepping Stones
- ♦ Chase down your passion like it's the last bus of the night. - Glade Byron Addams
- ♦ Small cheer and great welcome makes a merry feast. - William Shakespeare
- ♦ If you want to turn your life around, try thankfulness. It will change your life mightily. - Gerald Good
- ♦ We give thanks for unknown blessings already on their way. - Ritual Chant
- ♦ If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, "thank you", that would suffice. - Meister Eckhart
- ♦ Who does not thank for little will not thank for much. - Estonian proverb
- ♦ Got no checkbooks, got no banks.  
Still I'd like to express my thanks -  
I got the sun in the mornin' and the moon at night. - Irving Berlin
- ♦ The unthankful heart. discovers no mercies;  
But let the thankful heart sweep through the day  
And as the magnet finds the iron,  
So it will find, in every hour, some heavenly blessings! - Henry Ward Beecher
- ♦ Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving. - W T Purkiser
- ♦ Thank God every day when you get up that you have something to do that day which must be done whether you like it or not. Being forced to work and forced to do your best will breed in you temperance and self-control, diligence and strength of will, cheerfulness and content, and a hundred virtues, which the idle will never know. - Basil Carpenter
- ♦ **God is Primary. Giving is Necessary.** Giving to the offertory is giving praise, thanks, and glory to God for his many blessings upon us. Each parish family's participation in giving to the offertory is so vitally important in order for the parish, its ministries, and programs to grow, prosper and evangelize

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the Good News.

- ♦ Discover your talents. Live your gifts. Explore your purpose.
- ♦ Three steps to worry-free finances are:
  1. Recognize all that we have as gifts from God,
  2. Trust that God will care for you and your family if you just seek his will, and
  3. Share what you have generously as Jesus taught us.
- ♦ Three underlying principles to consider in the stewardship of treasure:

First, everything in our life belongs to God, not us.

Second, God has a plan and mission for our lives; to bring the good news of the love and mercy found in Jesus Christ to the world.

Third, gratitude. As Psalm 116 says, “How shall I make a return to the Lord for all the good he has done for me.”
- ♦ The poor are your masters. You are the servant. Let us work with a new love in service of the poor, looking for the most destitute and abandoned among them. Let us recognize that before God they are our Lords and masters, and we are unworthy to render them our small services. -St Vincent de Paul
- ♦ We cannot better assure our eternal happiness than by living and dying in the service of the poor, in the arms of Providence, and with genuine renouncement of ourselves in order to follow Jesus Christ. - St. Vincent de Paul
- ♦ Prayer is the cornerstone of stewardship. Only when we spend time with God in prayer are we spiritually prepared to offer ourselves in service to others. Just as we schedule the other important parts of daily life, we need to make a conscious effort to make time for prayer.
- ♦ The value of consistent prayer is not that He will hear us, but that we will hear Him. – William McGill
- ♦ All that we have and all that we are comes from God. That includes spiritual gifts as well as our interests, talents, skills and abilities. Each day that we live we gain experiences unique to us. Stewardship of Gifts refers to how we employ all of this richness to strengthen each other and our community.
- ♦ Generosity recognizes that significance comes through relationships, serving and sharing with others. This often contrasts with success which focuses on accumulation, achievement and status.
- ♦ How does one know when they are generous? When their significance is defined by serving others rather than serving one self. And this is the result of a changed heart. Generous living can involve being spontaneous, but with a purpose. Generosity begins by recognizing how God has richly blessed people. Generosity involves giving out of grace and gratitude with a feeling of joy. Most often generosity comes from the heart.

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- ♦ Reflection: I have been given the ability to make healthful changes to better serve God and benefit myself and those around me. How can I actively care for myself?
- ♦ Core to life in a Christian community is an intentional recognition, care, and response to the needs of the poor and powerless. We invite you to consider the following opportunities to help those in need.
  - Collect items for your local food shelf.
  - Volunteer at your local shelter throughout the year.
  - Show kindness by giving a clean pair of socks or a healthy snack.
  - Recognize their dignity and acknowledge their presence.
  - Take the initiative to better understand the issues and learn how you can help.
- ♦ *Society* says you earned your money, now spend it any way you choose and you'll be happy. *Scripture* says you can only be content if you have been a faithful steward handling money from the Lord's perspective.
- ♦ He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose. – Jim Elliot, martyred missionary
- ♦ *Society says*: Acquire as many expensive possessions as possible because they are evidence you are a successful, important person. *Scripture* says the excessive accumulation of possessions will distract you from fulfilling God's purpose for your life.
- ♦ Contentment lies not in obtaining things you want, but in giving thanks for what you have.
- ♦ Money will buy:  
A bed but not sleep;  
Books but not brains;  
Food but not an appetite;  
A house but not a home;  
Medicine but not health;  
Amusement but not happiness;  
A crucifix but not a Savior.
- ♦ For the gift of our souls, for the promise of our lives,  
For all we are and all we might yet become,  
For the creative seeds sown within our minds,  
Whose nurturing can yield a grand harvest;  
For all these gifts, we thank You, O God,  
And pray that we prove ourselves worthy.

May our lives be ripe with the fruit of compassion,  
Sweetly sustaining those in need.  
My we use our gifts wisely and with love,  
True messengers of blessing to the world.



## THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

- ♦ On your death bed, you are not going to regret missing a TV show. You are not going to wish you had owned more stuff. You will hate to say goodbye to those you love. You will regret not loving them more and giving more of yourself to them. – Wind Fist (via Facebook)
- ♦ How would my life be different if I believed and acted like the claims of the Bible are correct? How would things change if I understood that all I have really belongs to God, and is entrusted by God to me to manage? What if I grounded my sense of self in my baptism, and recognized that in God's eyes what I have doesn't have any relationship to who I am? – Chick Lane, Director of the Center for Stewardship Leaders, Luther Seminary
- ♦ Be thankful for the bad things in life because they opened your eyes to the good things you weren't paying attention to before. – Kermit the Frog
- ♦ ... Only by serving can we know and love Christ and make him known and loved.
- ♦ And how will we show him to souls? By our example. Through our voluntary service of Jesus Christ. - St. Josemaria Escrivá,
- ♦ Ask yourself these two questions: "How do I feel God has blessed me in the past year?" and "How do I feel God is calling me to respond?"
- ♦ Stewardship pleases God because the good steward is careful of creation, is respectful of justice and charity, and is prayerful at all times. "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more." - Luke 12:48
- ♦ The bread and wine we offer at the Eucharist represents the whole of our lives. When they are transformed, the whole of our lives are transformed. So, too, the symbolic offering of a significant proportion of our talent, treasure, and time is a sign of our giving our whole lives to God, and our whole lives are transformed in the action.
- ♦ Never forget to give God the credit for all your abilities and resources.
- ♦ Take time to evaluate your priorities in all the relationships and resources that God has placed in your care. Pray for God's help in making decisions on where your time, talents, and money can contribute most in your life and in your faith community.
- ♦ We must put God first. God has generously provided for different people in different ways, and, in return, we are called to be financially generous, to give – not just when it's convenient or from what's left over after all our desires are met.
- ♦ The Church, in following the teachings of Christ, invites people to invest in solutions to the problems we face in society. Each individual cannot support every good cause, but together we can make a positive difference in the world around us. By following Christ's example, by carefully stewarding our gifts in life, we open our hearts to the possibilities. We open our lives to the grace of God.



## THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

- ♦ Peace of Mind: It wouldn't be good for us to have everything we want. It would foster a selfishness that could crowd God out of our lives. When we make a budget of our time and money – and include God, as well as our other priorities, in it – and learn to fulfill our wants with what's left, that is when we are learning to lean on and depend on God, and that is really what God wants of us.
- ♦ I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy. – Rabindranath Tagore

STEWARDSHIP

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*A Way of Life*



## THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

- ♦ The richest life is not “about us” – it’s about others. It’s about service — and not just the obvious service of volunteerism or charitable giving. Some of the most unpleasant and self-righteous people I know give away quite a bit of money and ladle out more than their share of soup at the soup kitchen. The best lives are lived by people who count others as better than themselves and place others’ needs above their own. Every day. Including this day. – David French, [www.patheos.com](http://www.patheos.com)
  - ♦ Gratitude keeps us real in a culture that is based on fantasy... fantasy is believing life will be better when we have more stuff. - Fr. Dan Mahan, 2012 Regional Stewardship Conference Keynote
  - ♦ Because it’s individual members do collectively make up the Body of Christ, that body’s health and well-being are the responsibility of the members—the personal responsibility of each one of us. We all are stewards of the Church. Bishop’s pastoral letter: *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*
  - ♦ The extent to which members feel engaged in their faith communities has a profound effect on their personal spiritual commitment. Engaged belonging is more likely to lead to enhanced believing. - Al Winseman, *Growing an Engaged Church*
  - ♦ Christ calls us to accept the persons we are and to respond to God’s love by living humbly as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God (1 Cor 4:1-2). This is not to say that we are not called to grow in all the ways possible, but rather, that we will be at our best when we do what we do best. - St. Matthew, Charlotte, *Gifted in Christ Participant Guide*, 2010
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- ♦ Regarding developing your talents (strengths): “Roads with the most traffic get widened. The ones that are rarely used fall into disrepair”. - Dr. Harry Chugani, Wayne State University
  - ♦ How do you recognize, affirm, or help family and friends develop their talents?
  - ♦ Pause today to notice how God is with you in simple, everyday moments. What difference does this make in your life?
  - ♦ How does recognizing and accepting your talents help you to see God’s grace in your life? What difference would it make in your life to build on your talents rather than endlessly trying to fix your weaknesses?
  - ♦ Western Culture Myths: \* *If you can dream it, you can do it* \* *You can do anything if you just try hard enough*, and \* *You can accomplish anything with enough persistence, just keep trying until you get it right*.
- Why do we perpetuate these myths to our children? I so believe in StrengthsFinder and now your children/youth can discover what their strengths are and *develop* them! Look into Clifton Youth StrengthsExplorer. Please... help them discover *who* they are.
- ♦ Holiness is the goal. Stewardship is how we get there. - Fr. Dan Mahan, 2012 Regional Stewardship Conference Keynote

## THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

- ♦ Life is simply a stewardship and not an ownership, a trust and not a gift. With a gift you may do as you please, but with a trust you must give an account. Whether it is my talents, my time, my treasure or the temple of my body, in all of these I am only a steward. - D. L. Moody
- ♦ "Let us more and more insist on raising funds of love, of kindness, of understanding, of peace. Money will come if we seek first the Kingdom of God - the rest will be given." – Blessed Mother Teresa
- ♦ “There is never enough time to do or say all the things that we would wish. The thing is to try to do as much as you can in the time that you have. Remember Scrooge, time is short, and suddenly, you're not here anymore” - *The Spirit of Christmas Present* (“Scrooge” 1970)
- ♦ St. Catherine of Siena relates where Jesus speaks to her: “I could well have made human beings in such a way, that they each had everything, but I preferred to give different gifts to different people, so that they would all need each other.”
- ♦ The most satisfying thing in life is to have been able to give a large part of one’s self to others. – Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, S.J.
- ♦ Isn’t it strange that princes and kings  
And clowns that caper in sawdust ring  
And common folk like you and me  
Are builders of eternity?  
To each is given a bag of tools  
An hourglass and a book of rules  
And each must build ere life has flown  
A stumbling block or a stepping stone  
R.L. Sharpe: *Stumbling Blocks or Stepping Stones*
- ♦ Lord, school us in the doing of kindles acts—regardless of station or side of the tracks. – Fred Bauer
- ♦ One who knows he has enough is rich. - Lao Tzu, Chinese Philosopher, 600 BC
- ♦ We are each gifted in a unique and important way. It is our responsibility, our privilege and our adventure to discover our own special light. – Mary Dunbar, British artist
- ♦ A habit for all of us to develop would be to look for something to appreciate in everyone we meet. We can all be generous with appreciation. – Carl Holmes
- ♦ If you think you are too small to be effective, you have never been in the dark with a mosquito.
- ♦ Whatever you possess must not possess you - Pope St. Gregory the Great (540-604 A.D)
- ♦ We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures. – Thornton Wilder

## THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

- ♦ True joy, happiness and inner peace come from giving of ourselves to others. A happy life is a life for others. – Henry Nouwen
- ♦ You have not done enough; you have never done enough, so long as it is still possible that you have something to contribute. – Dag Hammarskjold, UN Secretary-General from 1953 to 1961
- ♦ Every increased possession loads us with new weariness. – John Ruskin
- ♦ What we think, or what we know, or what we believe is, in the end, of little consequence. The only consequence is what we do. - John Ruskin
- ♦ You always know you have been in the presence of a Christian by the trail of light they leave behind. - John Ruskin
- ♦ Go forth now as children of the light. And remember: You don't have to blow out anybody else's candle to make yours shine brighter!
- ♦ Christ has no body now on earth but yours, No hands but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless people now. -St. Teresa of Avila
- ♦ We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give. - Winston Churchill
- ♦ As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace.
- ♦ God has given you a gift, a charism. A charism isn't something you earn. It's a gift entrusted to you for the sake of the whole community, including your church. The only question is whether you will put it at the service of the community or not. Pray that you will grow in your understanding of stewardship of your talents and abilities.
- ♦ Every person should walk unhesitatingly according to their own personal gifts and duties in the path of a living faith which arouses hopes and works through charity. -Vatican Council II – *Lumen Gentium* 41
- ♦ Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile. - Albert Einstein
- ♦ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house, and try me in this, says the Lord of hosts: Shall I not open for you the floodgates of heaven, to pour down blessing upon you without measure? - Malachi 3:10
- ♦ A sense of stewardship tells us we must take time to do God's work on earth. When you compare what you have contributed in time, do not compare it to what your fellow church member has done. Compare what you have done to what God has done for you. This must be the standard for your comparison.

## THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

- ♦ Reflect that in reality you have a greater need to serve the poor than they have of your service. – St. Angela Merici
- ♦ When we serve others, we are imitating Jesus. We advance from *volunteer* to *steward* when we consciously choose to dedicate a portion of our time, talent, and treasure to the Lord, as a token of our gratitude for all He has given to us.
- ♦ The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve. - Albert Schweitzer
- ♦ Many people, including Christians, ought to be concerned about the goods and services offered in the marketplace. We act on this concern by paying attention to the way in which we spend our money. A determination by a sufficiently large group of people to buy morally good products, which is an exercise of Stewardship, can have an impact on the marketplace. - *Stewardship and Home Economics*; Robert G. Kennedy, PhD
- ♦ As consumers, our preference ought to be to spend our money, even for ordinary things, in ways that help individuals and improve our communities. These opportunities may not always exist, but good stewards look for them, try to create them, and take advantage of them when they can. *Stewardship and Home Economics*; Robert G. Kennedy, PhD.
- ♦ The early Christians were apprehensive of wealth for they were fearful that it would be a distraction from the higher goods of the Kingdom. Even so, they recognized that the possession of wealth, if not the result of greed and injustice, provided an opportunity for the rich man to do God's work in a special way. Good stewards take a similar attitude. *Stewardship and Home Economics*; Robert G. Kennedy, Ph.D.
- ♦ If you planted hope today  
In any hopeless heart  
If someone's burden was lighter  
Because you did your part,  
If you caused a laugh  
That chased some tears away  
If tonight your name is named  
When someone kneels to pray  
Then your day has been well spent. - Author Unknown
- ♦ I am nothing; I am but an instrument, a tiny pencil in the hands of the Lord with which He writes what he likes. However imperfect we are, he writes beautifully. – Blessed Mother Teresa
- ♦ The constructive use of riches is better than their possession - Chinese Fortune Cookie

## THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

- ♦ This is the fast that pleases me: to release those bound unjustly, to let the oppressed go free, to share your bread with the hungry and to shelter the homeless poor, to clothe those who are naked, not turning your back on your own kind. If you do away with the clenched fist, the wicked word, if you give your bread to the hungry and relief to the oppressed, your light will rise in the darkness. - Isaiah 28
- ♦ A talent is a talent until it is used to serve God. At that point it becomes a gift of ultimate value, multiplying every time we use it. In man's eyes it may seem insignificant, in God's eyes, you are a superstar.
- ♦ Although we are recipients of almost limitless gifts, our tendency is often to call them our own and claim them for ourselves exclusively. Christian stewardship reminds us that these gifts are not our own, that we have a trusteeship over them and not an ownership.
- ♦ Lord, you have given me so much. I ask for one thing: a grateful heart. - George Herbert
- ♦ Speak tenderly to them. Let there be kindness in your face, in your eyes, in your smile, in the warmth of your greeting. Always have a cheerful smile. Don't only give your care, but give your heart as well. – Blessed Mother Theresa
- ♦ It is a freedom God bestows on those who trust him when he says; a person's wealth does not consist in the abundance of things he/she possesses. That is not a threat. It is a promise, and it is God himself who stands behind that promise.
- ♦ Dear Lord, Teach me to be generous. Teach me to serve you as you deserve, to give and not count the cost, to fight and not heed the wounds, save that of knowing that I do your will. - St. Ignatius Loyola
- ♦ It's a pitfall.. to engage in acts of blessing or charity with the expectation of a specific reward. Neat, warm, fuzzy endings are the stuff of motion pictures, not necessarily real life. The truth is that you may never know the outcome of a particular act of service. - Thomas Kinkade, American artist (1958-2012)
- ♦ Reflect upon your present blessings. - Charles Dickens
- ♦ No one has ever become poor by giving. - Anne Frank
- ♦ Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love. - Martin Luther King, Jr.
- ♦ The Lord does us the honor of placing his confidence in us and calling us to the ministry, showing us his mercy. This call is not reserved for a few; it is for everyone, each in his own state of life. - Pope John Paul II



## THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

- ♦ Every person has the obligation to discern concrete ways God intends us to use our talents and resources. To make a commitment to worship God through faithful living and carefully stewarding our gifts and our very lives to the limit of our strength and abilities will reap untold spiritual benefits for us and for all those with whom we come in contact.
- ♦ There is something missing in our makeup if we can look at all we have to enjoy and not be moved by some desire to express our thanks. And a natural expression of our gratitude is responsible generosity.
- ♦ The recognition of the extent to which we are blessed by God materially, mentally and spiritually should lead first to gratitude and then to generosity.
- ♦ No one could show me where my soul might be; I searched for God, and He eluded me; I served my neighbor, and I found all three. - Ernest Crosby
- ♦ Somewhere out there is a unique place for you to serve, a unique life role for you to fill. Only you can make your particular contribution to humankind. - Thomas Kinkade, American artist (1958-2012)
- ♦ Always hold firmly to the thought that each of us can do something to bring some portion of misery to an end.
- ♦ If you assume that there's no hope, you guarantee that there will be no hope. If you assume that there is an instinct for freedom, that there are opportunities to change things, there is a chance you may contribute to making a better world. That's your choice. - Noam Chomsky
- ♦ In the very act of giving, I experience my strength, my wealth, my power. This experience of heightened vitality and potency fills me with joy. I experience myself as overflowing, spending, alive, hence as joyous. Giving is more joyous than receiving, not because it is a deprivation, but because in the act of giving lies the expression of my aliveness. - Eric Fromm
- ♦ Not he who has much is rich, but he who gives much. - Erich Fromm
- ♦ Stewardship is ... a little bit you, a forward path, a privilege, a way, a choice, a pleasure, a helping hand, a promise, a connection, a right, a responsibility, a thank you, an awareness, a commitment, a gift, a crossroad decision, a connection to each other, a little bit of you for God.
- ♦ The Bible says God called the world He had created good and he gave man dominion over it (Genesis 1:26,31). God still calls us to exercise dominion over the earth - by exercising restraint in our buying habits... by being vigilant in our recycling habits... by exercising judgment in our disposal habits. When we do, God calls it stewardship.
- ♦ It's not enough to have lived. We should be determined to live for something. May I suggest that it be creating joy for others, sharing what we have for the betterment of personkind, bringing hope to the lost and love to the lonely. - Leo F. Buscaglia (1924-1998)
- ♦ Only when we give joyfully, without hesitation or thought of gain, can we truly know what love means. - Leo F. Buscaglia (1924-1998)

## THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

- ♦ Possessions are gifts from God and are more for the sake of the brethren than one's own soul. The Christian should not carry them about in his soul, nor allow them to bind and circumscribe his life. He is able with cheerful mind to bear their removal equally with their abundance. - St. Clement of Alexandria
- ♦ There is a wonderful mythical law of nature that the three things we crave most in life – happiness, freedom, and peace of mind – are always attained by giving them to someone else. - Peyton Conway March
- ♦ A bit of fragrance always clings to the hand that gives you roses. - Chinese Proverb
- ♦ We must not only give what we *have*; we must also give what we *are*. - Desire Mercier
- ♦ It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself. - Ralph Waldo Emerson
- ♦ People can be divided into three groups: those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wonder 'what happened?' - Nicholas Murray Butler
- ♦ It is not by accident that the happiest people are those who make a conscious effort to live useful lives. Their happiness, of course, is not a shallow exhilaration where life is one continuous intoxicating party. Rather, their happiness is a deep sense of inner peace that comes when they believe their lives have meaning and that they are making a difference for good in the world. - Ernest Fitzgerald
- ♦ We all start out in life with one thing in common; we all have the same amount of time. It's just a matter of what we do with it. - Harvey B. Mackay, Entrepreneur and Author
- ♦ Do not confuse notoriety and fame with greatness... For you see, greatness is a measure of one's spirit, not a result of one's rank in human affairs. - Sherman Finesilver, Chief Judge, US District Court
- ♦ In the design of God, every man is called upon to develop and fulfill himself, for every life is a vocation. (Pope Paul VI, *On the Development of Peoples*, 1967). This is an awesome invitation to stewardship by our Creator who asks each to direct him or herself ...toward the destiny intended...
- ♦ Use what talent you possess: the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those that sang best. - Henry Van Dyke
- ♦ To maintain a joyful family requires much from both the parents and the children. Each member of the family has to become, in a special way, the servant of the others. - Pope John Paul II
- ♦ The solidarity which binds all men together as members of a common family makes it impossible for wealthy nations to look with indifference upon the hunger, misery and poverty of other nations whose citizens are unable to enjoy even elementary human rights. The nations of the world are becoming more and more dependent on one another and it will not be possible to preserve a lasting peace so long as glaring economic and social imbalances persist. - Quote from Catholic Peace document

# THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

- ♦ Stewardship is what I do after I say I believe.
- ♦ An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity. - Martin Luther King, Jr.
- ♦ The human and spiritual needs of peoples beyond our borders call us to the urgency of mission. Mission always expresses a concern for the life of others. Moved by the Spirit, we ardently desire that our brothers and sisters have life, and in abundance. - U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Statement on World Missions
- ♦ If you assume that there's no hope, you guarantee that there is no hope. If you assume that there is an instinct for freedom, that there are opportunities to change things, there is a chance you may contribute to making a better world. - Noam Chomsky
- ♦ It is not enough to be busy; so are the ants. The question is: what are we busy about? - Henry David Thoreau
- ♦ Out of love, place yourselves at another's service. - Galatians 5:13
- ♦ There is a call to all of us, a call of service – that we join with others to try to make things better in this world. - Dorothy Day
- ♦ We have to learn to give, learn to share, and learn to think of others. We have to learn to hold life loosely and freely – to give away our time and energy and money for the purpose of helping others, trusting that there will still be enough to take care of our needs and give us joy. - Thomas Kinkade
- ♦ After prayerful thought about the size of our gift;  
When we do not find ourselves making excuses for its size;  
When we know in our hearts it is sacrificial;  
When we are completely honest with God and ourselves;  
Then we know our gift is the correct amount.  
- Bishop Gerber - 2002 ICSC Conference
- ♦ Love is a spendthrift. It leaves arithmetic at home. - CS Lewis
- ♦ Go break to the needy, Sweet Charity's Bread  
For Giving is Living..the Angel had said.  
But must I keep giving again and again?  
Oh no, said the Angel, chilling me through,  
Just give til the Master stops giving to you!
- ♦ Let us master this great and simple truth that all rich materials and productions of the world, being God's property, are intended for God's service and sin only, nothing but sin, turns them to different purpose. - Cardinal Newman

## THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

- ♦ Do we make a difference in our service to others because of our relationship to the Lord?
- ♦ ...stewardship of the world is expressed by jubilant appreciation of nature, whose God-given beauty not even exploitation and abuse has destroyed. - *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response* - US Catholic bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship
- ♦ The paradox of stewardship: stewardship starts with God and His abundance. All too often we have a scarcity mentality. All we can see is what we lack... The more we hold on to what we have, the less we can receive. We have to let go... Only when we are willing to surrender them, to share our bounty... will God bestow even more blessings on us. That is the paradox of stewardship.
- ♦ Every one of us has something we can do to help others. It doesn't matter how rich or how poor we are, how smart, educated or famous we might be. Each of us has been given at least one gift that we can use on behalf of the rest of humanity.
- ♦ One of the greatest gifts God gives us is the twenty-four hours we get at the start of each day... A gift of time is a good place to start living as a Christian steward. One of the best uses of our time is in prayer.
- ♦ When we show our gratitude to God by sharing our talents and resources, we multiply them throughout our parish and community. Christ's miracle of the loaves and fishes occurs again and again and again whenever we give freely of ourselves to others. Just as in the parable, we will find ourselves fulfilled, less empty than we have ever been.
- ♦ We have all heard the saying, Give 'til it hurts. What we discover, through practicing stewardship, is that it simply is not true. Emptiness, isolation and rejection of God's presence in our lives hurt. Responding to God's grace in our lives with acts of sharing, giving, and caring fills our lives with joy and purpose. Giving 'til it hurts never hurts.
- ♦ Our faith can truly be considered mature when we know that God always is present in our lives, even in our darkest hours. Our response, then, is always gratitude, no matter our personal trials. Our commitment to sharing remains constant, a continuing act of prayer. If you are reading this, you are enjoying one of God's greatest gifts to us: life itself.
- ♦ There are many in this world who have less than we do. There are many in this world who have more than we do. This makes no difference to our commitment to share our own gifts and resources. It is not about who has less than I do. It is not about who has more than I do. It is about: What will I do?
- ♦ Remember, what you possess in the world will be found at the day of your death to belong to someone else, but what you are will be yours forever. - Henry van Dyke, American clergyman, educator and author (1852-1933)
- ♦ The trouble is that rich people, well-to-do people, very often don't really know who the poor are; and that is why we can forgive them, for knowledge can only lead to love, and love to service. And so, if they are not touched by them, it's because they do not know them. – Blessed Mother Teresa

## THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

- ♦ It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving. – Blessed Mother Teresa
- ♦ Stewards understand that the next step is to share the gifts they have been given. Stewards share with a joyful heart, for you cannot love without giving. Understand this love is a reflection of God's love for them.
- ♦ God has promised to return the gifts that are returned to him. It is a never ending circle. We receive gifts from God, we return them with increase. Not to be outdone, God returns them back to us. The more we give away, the more we are blessed. This is not the reason stewards give; it is the result of giving.
- ♦ Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring ... all of which have the potential to turn a life around.
- ♦ Gratitude: A single grateful thought raised to heaven is the most perfect prayer. - Gotthold Ephraim Lessing
- ♦ It is the heart that gives, the fingers just let go. - Nigerian proverb
- ♦ IN GOD'S HANDS  
A baseball glove in the average person's hands is worth about \$25  
A baseball glove in Dale Murphey's hands is worth about 2 million dollars  
A lot depends on whose hand's it's in.  
  
Five loaves and two fish in the disciple's hands could feed about 15 people  
Five loaves and two fish in the Lord's hands fed thousands.  
A lot depends on whose hands it's in.
- ♦ GIVING 'OFF THE TOP'  
A missionary in Africa had taught his people to tithe. He had explained that tithe meant one-tenth, and that this should be their goal. He also had emphasized the difference between giving what is left over, and giving off the top.  
  
Early one morning a man came to the door with a fine fish, explaining that this was his tithe.  
You must have done well, said the missionary, if you already caught 10 fish.  
No, said the man. This is the one I've caught so far. I'm going back now to catch the other nine.
- ♦ In the bearing of another's burdens, in the sharing of another's pain, we begin to dance. - Jim Cotter
- ♦ So often we hold on to possessions like a toddler who has just learned the word mine. A good steward recognizes that nothing is truly ours – we're only caretakers. When we accept this, the burden of holding on to our possessions is lifted.



## THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

- ♦ Trust in God...  
Stewards develop a deep trust in God ... so deep that we can give our last dollar, or our last fifteen minutes of time, with full confidence that there will always be enough money and enough time to meet our own needs.
- ♦ We all have a need to give back in gratitude for what has been given to us. But when we give, an interesting phenomenon occurs. We give, and more comes back to us! And we have more that we want to share with others ... and we give again! Giving feels good!
- ♦ Living as stewards brings tough questions to our lives. For example, do our time planners, credit cards, and checkbooks reveal that we are good stewards in our families and congregations?
- ♦ Please consider remembering your parish in your Will. Some gifts are apples. A Planned Giving gift is an apple *tree*.
- ♦ God has given us two hands- one to receive with and the other to give with. We are not cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for sharing. - Billy Graham
- ♦ Giving is a necessity sometimes... more urgent, indeed, than having. -Margaret Lee Runbeck
- ♦ Who then is the faithful and wise steward...? Discipleship entails responsible stewardship. As children of God, created in his likeness and redeemed through his mercy, and as members of his Church, may our response for stewardship flow from the acceptance of our role as disciples, rooted in the deep joy of a vibrant faith.
- ♦ We know the sacrifice that God gave to us to show how much he loves us... How we use our time, talent and treasure shows God how much we love him!
- ♦ From a sincere examination of conscience comes the harrowing recognition of how much we personally contribute to the sorrows around us. Contrition, repentance and the longing for a sincere reconciliation with the living God are the most perfect human response.
- ♦ Stewardship is not the goal of our journey.  
Evangelization is the goal.  
Stewardship is how we get there.
- ♦ We owe a tithe of our time. Why not ask your parishioners to commit to a time of daily prayer?
- ♦ Assume the best of each other. The only wrong answer is to stop trying.
- ♦ Gallup Research shows that in most cases, belief does *not* lead to belonging, but rather, belonging leads to belief.
- ♦ The fragrance always stays in the hand that gives the rose. – Hada Bejar



## THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

- ♦ Giving frees us from the familiar territory of our own needs by opening our mind to the unexplained worlds occupied by the needs of others. – Barbara Bush, former First Lady
  - ♦ Every increased possession loads us with new weariness. - John Ruskin (1819-1900)
  - ♦ The highest reward man's toil is not what he gets for it, but what he becomes by it. - John Ruskin (1819-1900)
  - ♦ What we think, or what we know, or what we believe is, in the end, of little consequence. The only consequence is what we do. - John Ruskin (1819-1900)
  - ♦ You will find that the mere resolve not to be useless and the honest desire to help other people, will, in the quickest and most delicate ways, improve yourself. - John Ruskin (1819-1900)
  - ♦ When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single lick of talent left and could say, I used everything you gave me. - Erma Bombeck, American humorist
  - ♦ Stewardship is the act of organizing your life so that God can spend you!
  - ♦ Of all the attitudes we can acquire, surely the attitude of gratitude is the most important and by far the most life-changing. – Zig Ziglar
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- ♦ We are to follow our Lord in becoming gracious hosts, as we acknowledge and embrace our cultural, ethnic, and linguistic diversity and God's unique presence in each other's lives, histories, and cultures. - *Many Faces in God's House*, Archbishop Alexander J. Brunett
  - ♦ The unthankful heart... discovers no mercies; but let the thankful heart sweep through the day and, as the magnet finds the iron, so it will find, in every hour, some heavenly blessings! - Henry Ward Beecher
  - ♦ Grace isn't a little prayer you chant before receiving a meal. It's a way to live. - Jackie Windspear
  - ♦ Who does not thank for little will not thank for much. - Estonian Proverb
  - ♦ You say, 'If I had a little more, I should be very satisfied.' You make a mistake. If you are not content with what you have, you would not be satisfied if it were doubled. - Charles Haddon Spurgeon
  - ♦ You say grace before meals. All right. But I say grace before the concert and the opera, and grace before the play and pantomime, and grace before I open a book, and grace before sketching, painting, swimming, fencing, boxing, walking, playing, dancing and grace before I dip the pen in the ink. - G.K. Chesterton
  - ♦ God gave you a gift of 86,400 seconds today. Have you used one to say thank you? - William A. Ward
  - ♦ Lord that lends me life, lend me a heart replete with thankfulness! - William Shakespeare

## THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

- ♦ Gratitude consists of being more aware of what you have, than what you don't. – Unknown
- ♦ We often take for granted the very things that most deserve our gratitude. - Cynthia Ozick
- ♦ Until I feared I would lose it, I never loved to read. One does not love breathing. - Harper Lee
- ♦ To know the value of generosity, it is necessary to have suffered from the cold indifference of others. - Eugene Cloutier
- ♦ Only a stomach that rarely feels hungry scorns common things. – Horace
- ♦ Courtesies of a small and trivial character are the ones which strike deepest in the grateful and appreciating heart. - Henry Clay
- ♦ How wonderful it would be if we could help our children and grandchildren to learn thanksgiving at an early age. Thanksgiving opens the doors. It changes a child's personality. A child is resentful, negative—or thankful. Thankful children want to give, they radiate happiness, they draw people. - Sir John Templeton
- ♦ Gratitude ... goes beyond the mine and thine and claims the truth that all of life is a pure gift. In the past I always thought of gratitude as a spontaneous response to the awareness of gifts received, but now I realize that gratitude can also be lived as a discipline. The discipline of gratitude is the explicit effort to acknowledge that all I am and have is given to me as a gift of love, a gift to be celebrated with joy. - Henri J. M. Nouwen
- ♦ We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures. - Thornton Wilder
- ♦ Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it. - William Arthur Ward
- ♦ Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow. - Melody Beattie
- ♦ Thank God every day when you get up that you have something to do that day which must be done whether you like it or not. Being forced to work and forced to do your best will breed in you temperance and self-control, diligence and strength of will, cheerfulness and content, and a hundred virtues which the idle will never know. - Basil Carpenter
- ♦ When eating bamboo sprouts, remember the man who planted them. - Chinese Proverb
- ♦ Hem your blessings with thankfulness so they don't unravel. - Author Unknown

## THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

- ♦ Gratitude is the sign of noble souls. - Aesop Fables
  - ♦ When our perils are past, shall our gratitude sleep? - George Canning
  - ♦ Some complain that roses have thorns—others rejoice that thorns have roses! –Unknown
  - ♦ Would you know who is the greatest saint in the world: It is not he who prays most or fasts most, it is not he who gives most alms or is most eminent for temperance, chastity or justice; but it is he who is always thankful to God, who wills everything that God wills, who receives everything as an instance of God’s goodness and has a heart always ready to praise God for it. - William Law
  - ♦ If you count all your assets, you always show a profit. - Robert Quillen
  - ♦ I have learnt silence from the talkative, toleration from the intolerant, and kindness from the unkind; yet strange, I am ungrateful to these teachers. - Kahlil Gibran
  - ♦ As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them. - John Fitzgerald Kennedy
  - ♦ Thanksgiving to God is an exuberant response to giving me *his* everything . . . by giving him *my* everything. – Martha Kilpatrick
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- ♦ Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving. - W.T. Purkiser
  - ♦ Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all the others. – Cicero
  - ♦ A Christian can never serve God *and* money, but they must learn to serve God *with* money. - Brian Kluth (1955-)
  - ♦ A checkbook is a theological document, it will tell you who and what you worship. - Billy Graham
  - ♦ Money talks. It says ‘good-bye’. If you doubt this, answer the question, ‘How much money did I make in the last 10 years?’ Then answer, ‘How much do I have left? Also ask, and how much do I have stored in heaven? - Brian Kluth (1955-)
  - ♦ People go through 3 conversions: their head, their heart and their pocketbook. Unfortunately, not all at the same time. - Martin Luther
  - ♦ If we belong to Christ, it's logical that everything we have truly belongs to Him.
  - ♦ Your use of money shows what you think of God.
  - ♦ The world asks: What does a man own? God asks, how does he use what he’s been given?

## THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

- ♦ A Christian is one who does not have to consult his bank book to see how wealthy he really is.
- ♦ The real measure of our wealth is how much we'd be worth if we lost all our money.
- ♦ The poorest man in the world is the man who has nothing but money.
- ♦ If you want to feel rich, just count all the things you have that money can't buy.
- ♦ When a man becomes rich, either God gains a partner or the man loses a soul.
- ♦ You are only poor when you want more than you have.
- ♦ It's not the high cost of living; it's the cost of living too high that gets most people in trouble.
- ♦ Remember: The most important things in life aren't things and the best things in life are always free.
- ♦ Where God guides, he provides. What God orders, he pays for.
- ♦ Be charitable before wealth makes thee covetous. - Sir Thomas Browne (1605-82), English writer
- ♦ Millionaires seldom smile. - Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919), American industrialist and philanthropist
- ♦ I was happier when I was doing a mechanic's job. - Henry Ford (1863-1947), American industrialist
- ♦ Charity gives itself rich; covetousness hoards itself poor. - German Proverb
- ♦ I have made many millions, but they have brought me no happiness. - John D. Rockefeller, Sr. (1839-1937), American industrialist and philanthropist
- ♦ Before you borrow money from a friend, decide which you need more.
- ♦ Money is a great treasure that only increases as you give it away. - Lord Francis Bacon (1561-1626), English philosopher and scientist
- ♦ We can either use our money to serve our God or our god will be our money. - Denny & Leesa Bellesi, from Kingdom Assignment
- ♦ What I possess, God owns. - Howard Dayton, co-founder of Crown Financial Ministries
- ♦ Without a rich heart wealth is an ugly beggar. - Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-82), American writer, philosopher and poet
- ♦ If a person gets his attitude toward money straight, it will help straighten out almost every other area in his life. - Billy Graham (1918-), American evangelist

## THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

- ♦ Give me five minutes with a person's checkbook, and I will tell you where their heart is. - Billy Graham (1918-), American evangelist
  - ♦ I have watched hundreds of Christians in my time become financially blessed then develop an acquisitive streak that in turn makes their souls as metallic as the coins they seek. - Selwyn Hughes, English pastor and author
  - ♦ The world asks, 'What does a man own?' Christ asks, 'How does he use it?' - Andrew Murray (1828-1917), South African evangelist and writer
  - ♦ He who is not liberal with what he has does but deceives himself when he thinks he would be liberal if he had more. - William S. Plumer, Christian author
  - ♦ We should travel light and live simply. Our enemy is not possessions but excess. - John R.W. Stott (1921-), English pastor and evangelist
  - ♦ Money never stays with me. It would burn me if it did. I throw it out of my hands as soon as possible, lest it should find its way into my heart. - John Wesley (1703-91), English evangelist and founder of Methodism
  - ♦ A lot of people are willing to give God the credit, but not too many are willing to give him the cash.
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- ♦ I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess. - Martin Luther (1483-1546), German reformer and theologian
  - ♦ One of the greatest missing teachings in the American church today is the reminder to men and women that nothing we have belongs to us. - Gordon MacDonald, American pastor and teacher
  - ♦ Stewardship is the act of organizing your life so that God can spend you. - Lynn A. Miller, author
  - ♦ When money is sent to me for my own use, I pass it on to God. As much as five thousand dollars has thus been sent at one time; but I do not regard such gifts as belonging to me; they belong to him, whose I am and whom I serve. Save for myself? I dare not save; it would dishonor my loving, gracious, all bountiful Father. - George Mueller (1805-98), English pastor and ministry leader
  - ♦ Watch lest prosperity destroy generosity. - Henry Ward Beecher (1813-87), American abolitionist and clergyman
  - ♦ He who bestows his goods upon the poor shall have as much again, and ten times more. - John Bunyan (1628-88), English Puritan writer and preacher
  - ♦ Prosperity inebriates men, so that they take delights in their own merits. - John Calvin (1509-64), French theologian and reformer

## THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

- ♦ Nothing is more dangerous than to be blinded by prosperity. - John Calvin (1509-64), French theologian and reformer
  - ♦ Surplus wealth is a sacred trust which its possessor is bound to administer in his lifetime for the good of the community. - Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919), American industrialist and philanthropist
  - ♦ Thousands upon thousands are yearly brought into a state of real poverty by their great anxiety not to be thought poor. - William Corbett (1680-1748), English composer
  - ♦ I shovel [money] out, and God shovels it back ... but God has a bigger shovel! - R.G. LeTourneau (1888-1969), American inventor
  - ♦ The fellow that has no money is poor. The fellow that has nothing but money is poorer still. - Billy Sunday (1862-1935), American revivalist
  - ♦ We are rich only through what we give: and poor only through what we refuse and keep. - Anne Swetchine (1782-1857), Russian-French writer
  - ♦ I never would have been able to tithe the first million dollars I ever made if I had not tithed my first salary, which was \$1.50 per week. - John D. Rockefeller, Sr. (1839-1937), American industrialist and philanthropist
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- ♦ No church ever has a money problem, only a faithfulness problem. - Brian Kluth, pastor, speaker, and author
  - ♦ When you give to God, you discover that God gives to you.
  - ♦ When it comes to giving, some people stop at *nothing*.
  - ♦ Giving to God is a grace—but not giving to God is a disgrace.
  - ♦ There's no good reason to be the richest man in the cemetery. - Col. Sanders, Founder of Kentucky Fried Chicken
  - ♦ What I kept, I lost. What I gave, I have.
  - ♦ If a pauper gives to God, he'll feel like a prince. If a prince doesn't give to God, he'll feel like a pauper.
  - ♦ I have observed 100,000 families over my years of investment counseling. I always saw greater prosperity and happiness among those families who tithed than among those who didn't. - Sir John Templeton, chairman of Templeton Funds
  - ♦ When we give to God, we are just taking our hands off what already belongs to Him.
  - ♦ Give to God what's right- not what's left.



## THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

- ♦ Some people give God a tenth—a tenth of what they ought to give.
- ♦ You should give according to your income, lest God make your income according to your giving.
- ♦ There are no pockets in a shroud and no U-hauls behind a hearse.
- ♦ Two things ruin a church- loose living and tight giving.
- ♦ God looks at the heart, not the hand- the giver, not the gift.
- ♦ If everyone in your church followed your pattern of giving, would your church receive a token, a tip or a tithe? — Brian Kluth, pastor, speaker and author
- ♦ When it comes to giving until it hurts, most people have a very low threshold of pain.
- ♦ Seek joy in what you give not in what you get.
- ♦ Some people say, “Give till it hurts.” But God recommends that we give until it feels good. God loves a cheerful giver! - Brian Kluth, pastor, speaker and author
- ♦ Real charity doesn't care if it's tax deductible or not.
- ♦ The Dead Sea is the dead sea because it continually receives and never gives. – Archbishop Thomas Murphy
- ♦ Thank the Lord that you can give instead of depending on others to give to you.
- ♦ Charity begins at home and generally dies from lack of outdoor exercise.
- ♦ Do not give, as many rich men do, like a hen that lays her eggs ... and then cackles. — Henry Ward Beecher (1813-87), American abolitionist and clergyman
- ♦ Wealth shines in giving rather than in hoarding: for the miser is hateful, whereas the generous man is applauded. — [Anicius Manlius Severinus] Boethius (480-524?), Roman statesman, philosopher and Christian martyr
- ♦ Examples are few of men ruined by giving. - Christian Bovée
- ♦ Generosity lies less in giving much than in giving at the right moment.  
- Jean de La Bruyère (1645-96), French writer
- ♦ You have not lived until you have done something for someone who can never repay you. - John Bunyan (1628-88), English Puritan writer and preacher
- ♦ Getters generally don't get happiness; givers get it. - Charles H. Burr

## THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

- ♦ Giving frees us from the familiar territory of our own needs by opening our mind to the unexplained worlds occupied by the needs of others. - Barbara Bush (1925-), former American first lady
- ♦ I was once young and now I am old, but not once have I been witness to God's failure to supply my need when first I had given for the furtherance of his work. He has never failed in his promise, so I cannot fail in my service to him. - William Carey (1761-1834), Baptist missionary to India
- ♦ You can give without loving. But you cannot love without giving. - Amy Carmichael (1867-1951), missionary to India
- ♦ We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give. - Winston Churchill (1874-1965), British wartime prime minister and statesman
- ♦ No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave. - Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933), 30th U.S. president
- ♦ Give naught, get same. Give much, get same. - Malcolm Forbes (1919-90), American publisher
- ♦ No one is so generous as he who has nothing to give. - French Proverb
- ♦ Dearest lord, teach me to be generous; teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost. - Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556), Jesuit founder
- ♦ The only investment I ever made which has paid consistently increasing dividends is the money I have given to the Lord. - James L. Kraft (1874-1953), Kraft-Phoenix Cheese Corp. chairman
- ♦ To give without any reward, or any notice, has a special quality of its own. - Anne Morrow Lindbergh (1906-2001), American aviatrix and writer
- ♦ A bone to the dog is not charity. Charity is the bone shared with the dog, when you are just as hungry as the dog. - Jack London (1876-1916), American novelist
- ♦ Give what you have. To someone it may be better than you dare to think. - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-82), American writer and poet
- ♦ Generosity during life is a very different thing from generosity in the hour of death; one proceeds from genuine liberality and benevolence, the other from pride or fear. - Horace Mann (1796-1859), American educator and politician
- ♦ I am convinced that the devil has caused the subject of giving to stir up resistance and resentment among God's people because he knows there are few ways of spiritual enrichment like the exercise of faithful stewardship. — Stephen Olford, preacher and author
- ♦ Our culture values the size of the gift, but God values the size of what we keep. — Ed Owens, Chicago fund manager

## THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

- ♦ He that gives all, though but little, gives much; because God looks not to the quantity of the gift, but to the quality of the givers. — Francis Quarles (1592-1644), author
- ♦ I believe it is every man's religious duty to get all he can honestly and to give all he can. — John D. Rockefeller, Sr. (1839-1937), American industrialist and philanthropist
- ♦ Think of giving not as a duty but as a privilege. — John D. Rockefeller, Jr. (1874-1960), American industrialist and philanthropist
- ♦ Generosity is to materialism what kryptonite is to Superman. — Lloyd Shadrach, pastor and author
- ♦ Never measure your generosity by what you give, but rather by what you have left. — Bishop Fulton J. Sheen (1895-1979), Roman Catholic bishop
- ♦ If there be any truer measure of a man than by what he does, it must be by what he gives. — Robert South (1634-1716), English clergyman
- ♦ Giving is true loving. — Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-92), English Baptist preacher
- ♦ Even if I give the whole of my worth to Him, He will find a way to give back to me much more than I gave. — Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-92), English Baptist preacher
- ♦ We can all be stimulated to greater generosity by the known generosity of others. — John R.W. Stott (1921-), English pastor and evangelist
- ♦ The measure of a life is not its duration, but its donation. - Peter Marshall (1902-49), former U.S. Senate chaplain
- ♦ It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving. — Blessed Mother Teresa (1910-97), Catholic missionary to India
- ♦ Giving is more than a responsibility—it is a privilege; more than an act of obedience—it is evidence of our faith. — William Arthur Ward (1921-94), American educator
- ♦ If I cannot give bountifully, yet will I give freely. — Arthur Warwick
- ♦ Earn as much as you can. Save as much as you can. Invest as much as you can. Give as much as you can. — John Wesley (1703-91), English evangelist and founder of Methodism
- ♦ I will place no value on anything I have or possess except in relation to the Kingdom of Christ. If anything I have will advance that Kingdom, it shall be given or kept whichever will best promote the glory of him to whom I owe all my hopes, both for time and eternity. - David Livingstone (1813-73), English missionary and explorer of Africa

# THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

- ♦ God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply. - J. Hudson Taylor (1832-1905), English missionary to China
- ♦ I believe with all of my heart that God's people possess God's provision to accomplish and fulfill God's purposes in the world. — Joel Vestal, founder of ServLife International
- ♦ Our real worth is what will be ours in eternity.
- ♦ Charitable giving should be a spiritual, rather than an economic decision. Economically, charitable giving never pays. — Ron Blue (1942-), Christian financial planner
- ♦ Looking for the reward of good works, we must wait patiently till the last day, the day of resurrection. — John Calvin (1509-64), French theologian and reformer
- ♦ The return we reap from generous actions is not always evident. — Francesco Guicciardini (1483-1540), Italian historian and statesman
- ♦ You only get to keep what you give away. — Sheldon Kopp, author
- ♦ I judge all things only by the price they shall gain in eternity. — John Wesley (1703-91), English evangelist and founder of Methodism

*A Way of Life*

## SPECIAL HOLIDAYS

### Thanksgiving:

- ♦ How important it is for each of us to cultivate an attitude of gratitude, not just in November, but all year long as we recognize the goodness of God in our lives! It is my firm conviction that blessings sometimes come to us "in disguise"-they may not be recognized as such immediately, but in time, the true blessings become obvious. Eucharist means THANKSGIVING and we are one in Jesus! I also want to wish each of you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving.
- ♦ As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them. John F. Kennedy
- ♦ The pilgrims made seven times more graves than huts...nevertheless, set aside a day of thanksgiving. - H.W. Westermayer
- ♦ On Thanksgiving Day, we acknowledge our dependence. - William Jennings Bryan
- ♦ Thanksgiving, after all, is a word of action. - W.J. Cameron

## THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

- ♦ Heap high the board with plenteous cheer and gather to the feast, and toast the sturdy Pilgrim band whose courage never ceased. - Alice W. Brotherton
- ♦ Thanksgiving Day is a jewel, to set in the hearts of honest men; but be careful that you do not take the day, and leave out the gratitude. - EP Powell

### Christmas:

- ♦ REFLECTION ON THE NATIVITY  
If it happened here as it happened there;  
If it happened now as it happened then;  
Who would see the miracle?  
Who would bring gifts?  
Who would take them in?  
- Bishop Thomas Murphy

“Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!”

— Dr. Seuss, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*

### Lent:

- ♦ Saint Ignatius of Loyola offered us these words of wisdom, which seem particularly relevant as we begin the season of Lent: "He who goes about to reform the world must begin with himself, or he loses his labor."
- ♦ As we hear "the voice of one who cries in the desert" proclaiming the beginning of Lent, we know that the Church in her wisdom has given us a beautiful season to look inward, to seek quiet time in our own desert. Saint Ignatius, Saint John the Baptist, and the season of Lent remind us that trying to change the world will not work if we don't first of all change ourselves.

### Earth Day:

- ♦ Care for God's Creation: On a planet conflicted over environmental issues, the Catholic tradition insists that we show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan; it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored. ([www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings](http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings))