

# STEWARDSHIP

Office of Formation for Discipleship Quarterly Newsletter  
*Assisting lay pastoral leaders and volunteers in their ministry*

## UPDATES BY FR. CHRIS CAUCHI

Our first Parish Ministry Conference in the Archdiocese of Toronto was a grand success! The “Be Disciples. Make Disciples.” conference held on October 20th brought together almost 500 clergy and lay faithful alike from all across the Archdiocese for a day of prayer, formation, fellowship and appreciation. We’re pleased to announce that the next Parish Ministry Conference will be held on Saturday, October 19th, 2019. Mark your calendars!

A highlight for many at this Conference was to hear Cardinal Collins speak on the spirituality of stewardship (<http://bit.ly/2018ConferenceVideos>), which complimented the theme of this year’s Priests’ Seminar. Priests were asked to identify three initiatives involving the stewardship of time and talent that either their parish has been spearheading or would like to give more attention. Once this is determined, they are to develop clear plans on how they intended to steer their parishes in 2019 towards deep stewardship. We’re here to help you with this task. Our goal in this newsletter is twofold: a) to introduce (or reinforce) the true meaning of deep stewardship (see page 2) and b) to offer support and guidance to clergy and ministry leaders as they embark with their parish communities on the journey of stewardship (see pages 3 and 4).

We all know that stewardship is not some new idea or program. Stewardship is already present in the Pastoral Plan (<http://bit.ly/PastoralPlan2013>) that our Archdiocese launched back in 2013. In fact, even though under a different name (Parish Life), the first core direction of the Plan is all about stewardship. Much good work has been done in this field over the last 5 years for which we need to be grateful. It’s now

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time to continue this valuable work towards deeper stewardship because it always leads towards greater engagement and vibrancy in our parishes.

Spearheading this effort is Cardinal Collins who, assisted by a new Stewardship Commission, will help us all to perceive stewardship as a way of life. To this end, a new Pastoral Letter on stewardship has been released and both clergy and lay leaders had several opportunities to reflect on it. Our office is excited to be part of this process and it is our hope that this newsletter may be of some assistance to you in your personal life and the way you engage in ministry.

You may have expected this newsletter to focus on Advent, however, it is our hope that you will soon come to realize and appreciate that deep stewardship is not alien to the greatest mysteries of our faith, including the Mystery of Incarnation that we celebrate every Christmas! And so, may your Advent season this year be inspired by the spirituality of stewardship. And may the Lord bless you and your loved ones with a holy Christmas and a wonderful new year.



Archdiocese  
of Toronto

# THE TRUE MEANING OF STEWARDSHIP

BY RACQUEL SEVILLA

Stewardship is one of those terms that carries with it many connotations. For many people, stewardship is often defined as the three Ts: time, talent and treasure. While we are all called to share the three Ts as good stewards, stewardship is much more than that. It is deeply rooted in who we are as baptized children of God and sharers in His mission and ministry.

Through



Baptism, we are drawn into Christ's body, into a life of discipleship and into communion with Christ and one another. Stewardship enables us to live out our Baptismal commitment in the fullest way possible as individuals and also as a community of faith.

In a pastoral letter issued by the American bishops in 1992 entitled "*Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*" (<http://bit.ly/USCCBStewardship>), they define a Christian steward as: "One who receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with all, and returns them with increase to the Lord." A more concise version comes from the Diocese of Wichita where stewardship is defined as: "the grateful response of a Christian disciple who recognizes and receives God's gifts and shares these gifts in love of God and neighbor."

All that we are, all that we have and all that will be is a gift from God. Gratitude is the response to this recognition that all is gift. This attitude of gratitude reminds us daily how abundantly generous our God is and that when we follow Him and give all in service to Him, we learn to trust that He will always provide for us. This faith in God frees us to be generous in responding to our Baptismal call by sharing our gifts, our charisms, our very selves, at the service of God through the Church.

God has given us all different gifts and each one has a different set because we are meant to share them with others. In *Novo Millennio Ineunte* #43, St. John Paul II talks about the need in our Church to promote a spirituality of communion, he says: "A spirituality of communion implies also the ability to see what is positive in others, to welcome it and prize it as a gift from God: not only as a gift for

the brother or sister who has received it directly, but also as a 'gift for me'." In our Pastoral Plan, Cardinal Collins shares this vision of what active and vibrant parishes could look like, where parishioners actively engage in sharing their time, talent and treasure in generous service and where they experience the richness of the parish community and focus their energy outward as witnesses to Christ in the world.

Where might we start, if we want to be more intentional in living as stewards and grateful disciples? We can ask ourselves: what percent of our time, talent and treasure do we give to others (the Church, charities, our neighbours in need)? In what concrete ways might God be inviting us to share our gifts even more?

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## STEWARDSHIP ASSESSMENT:

BY CONNIE PRICE

# TAKING THE PARISH PULSE

How is stewardship of time and talent being encouraged in your parish and within your parish ministry area? What needs more attention? The Office of Formation for Discipleship offers you this assessment tool, to help you begin this important conversation and create goals for the next year. It is suitable for pastors, clergy, lay leaders and coordinators, and parish groups.



**Step 1:** Before meeting together, read Cardinal Collins' pastoral letter on Stewardship (<http://bit.ly/CardinalPastoralLetter2018>)

**Step 2:** Pray the Stewardship Prayer (<http://bit.ly/StewardshipPrayer>)

**Step 3:** Review and Reflect, using the Goals and Reflection Questions for the First Core Direction of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan.

### Goals

- Celebration of the Sunday Eucharist with full, conscious and active participation by the faithful
- Opportunities for prayer, spiritual formation and enrichment

- A communal life in the parish which offers welcome, hospitality & outreach
- Strong pastoral leadership in the parish which promotes diverse & collaborative roles of pastoral service
- Effective pastoral governance – structures & committees in the parish which promote stewardship and ensure accountability
- Supporting the family, the domestic church
- Commitment to a renewed evangelization – catechesis & formation in the faith
- A strong witness to an apostolic mission – outreach ministries and service

(For the full text, please see Section IV.1 of the Pastoral Plan: <http://bit.ly/PastoralPlan2013>)

**Step 4:** Identify three things involving stewardship of time and talent that you, as a parish, would like to focus on, and what you would need in order to do so.

**Step 5:** Commit to following up on your responses in Step 3, always in consultation with the Pastor.

**Step 6:** Close the meeting with a prayer.

If you need any assistance with this process, feel free to contact our office by phone (416-934-0606) or by email ([formation@archtoronto.org](mailto:formation@archtoronto.org)). We're here to serve your parish community!



# RESOURCES

# FOR THE JOURNEY

BY QUENTIN SCHESNUIK

Stewardship is not a program but a process of conversion and faith formation. You may want to use the diagram below from Leisa Anslinger's *Grateful Disciples: Your Guide to Parish Stewardship* (<http://bit.ly/GratefulDisciplesGuide>) as a process for you and your parish to grow in stewardship.

**Stewards in Community:** When a parish begins to see itself as a community of disciples who live as good stewards of God's gifts, it discovers the impact that this spirituality has on the life of discipleship.

- *Pastoral Letter on Stewardship by Cardinal Collins:* <http://bit.ly/CardinalPastoralLetter2018>
- *Stewardship - A Disciple's Response: A Pastoral Letter on Stewardship* written by the American Bishops (USCCB): <http://bit.ly/USCCBStewardship>

### Lead Grateful Disciples:

Pastors and parish leaders lead their parish community towards a deeper stewardship of time and talent.

- *Grateful Disciples: your Guide to Parish Stewardship* by Leisa Anslinger
- *10 Best Stewardship Practices of Vibrant Parishes in the Archdiocese of Toronto:* <http://bit.ly/OFD-StewardshipBestPractices>

**Form Disciples as Stewards:** Discover the ways to communicate the stewardship message to your community (e.g. homilies, witness talks, website)

- *A Grateful Response to God's Abundant Gifts* by Fr. C. Jarrod Lies: <http://bit.ly/AGratefulResponse>
- *Making Stewardship A Way of Life* by Fr. Andrew Kemberling and Mila Glodava: <http://bit.ly/MakingStewardshipAWayofLife>
- *30 Days on Stewardship* by Leisa Anslinger: <http://bit.ly/30DaysOnStewardship>
- Diocese of Green Bay list of scriptural texts relating to Stewardship: <http://bit.ly/StewardshipScripturalPassages>
- Video *Unleashing the Power of Deep Stewardship* by Leisa Anslinger: <http://bit.ly/UnleashingThePowerOfDeepStewardship>
- *Stewardship Formation* YouTube short video clip series: <http://bit.ly/StewardshipFormation>

- *Aging as a Gift Part 1, Catholic TV:* <http://bit.ly/AgingAsAGiftPart1>

**Welcome and Engage Everyone:** Offering a genuine welcome and sincere invitation to become part of the community mirrors Christ's love for us.

- *Growing an Engaged Church* by Albert L. Winseman: <http://bit.ly/GrowingAnEngagedChurch>
- *Encountering Through Serving* from Holy Family Parish in Whitby: <http://bit.ly/HF-HospitalityBrochure>
- Archdiocese of Vancouver's Stewardship Resources downloadable tip sheets: <https://rcav.org/stewardship-resources/>
- *Recipes For Successful Stewardship* from the Diocese of Wichita: <http://bit.ly/RecipesStewardship>



**Commit to Annual Renewal:** An "annual time for commitment" helps

parishioners understand stewardship as a way to connect their Christian faith with their daily lives.

- *Stewardship Lay Witness Speaker Training Manual* from the Archdiocese of St. Louis: <http://bit.ly/LayWitnessTrainingManual>
- Parish Resources from the Archdiocese of Seattle: <http://bit.ly/ArchSeattle-ParishResources>

**Give Thanks:** Showing gratitude is a way of confirming God's living presence within us and among us.

- *Grateful Disciples: Your Guide to Parish Stewardship* by Leisa Anslinger
- *A Grateful Response to God's Abundant Gifts* by Fr. C. Jarrod Lies

For more information, please contact Quentin Schesnuik at 416-934-3400, ext. 561 or [quentins@archtoronto.org](mailto:quentins@archtoronto.org).

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