

Stewards

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\$140	\$130	\$120	\$ 110	\$100	\$ 90	\$ 80	\$ 70	\$ 60	\$ 50	\$ 40	\$ 30	\$ 20	\$ 10	5%	BY OME

### **First Fruits Exercise**

Taking a look at our personal priorities and values: A self assessment

(For your personal or family use only)

**Step 1)** How I spend the time entrusted to me: Name six to ten things you spent the most time doing regularly this past year.

**Step 2)** How I spend the financial resources entrusted to me: Name six to ten things you probably spent the most money on this past year.

**Step 3)** God as a priority during the past **vear** — a self evaluation: Mark an "X" on the line below that you think represents how high a priority God has been in your life this past year.

Low Priority High Priority

**Step 4)** God as a priority during the **coming year — a personal decision:** *Draw* a small circle on the line representing how high a priority you would like God to be in your life during the next year.

### **Step 5)** My concrete plan:

What are some things I could start, stop or continue that would help me toward my goal stated in step four?



" Zs Christian stewards, we receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord." (U.S. Bishop's Pastoral Letter on

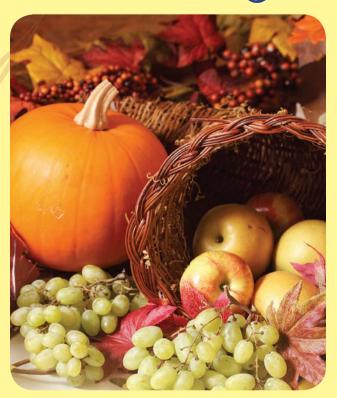
Stewardship)

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be giving to you as well."





# Harvest Your Gifts



"Wonor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce: then your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will be bursting with wine."

(Proverbs 3:9-10)

## God gives it all then calls us to share our harvest.

Sacrificial giving is a necessary expression of our faith, of what we say we believe. We channel a portion of our giving through our parish because it is the body which most clearly bears witness to the meaning and values we find at the center of our lives.



n many ways our collection basket is our "cornucopia" from which fruit is taken to provide for and enrich our parish community. The fruit comes through your giving from what God has given to each of us. What will you place in our basket this year? How will you share from your bounty on a regular basis, in special collections, and for those in the greatest need?

Everything we have has been given to us by our loving God, and we are called to be good stewards of these gifts by using them in light of the Gospel. When we place God at the center of our lives, we become more prayerful, more caring of others, and less preoccupied with material things. It is important that God receives a prayerfully considered portion of what we have to give instead of what is left over.

By doing this we demonstrate that God and His Gospel are the most important aspects of our lives.

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