

Why Do We Teach Stewardship?

“Mature disciples make a conscious, firm decision, carried out in action, to be followers of Jesus Christ no matter the cost to themselves.”

“The following of Christ as a disciple entails a personal response, and this call can result in a positive impact on our faith communities.”

“Once one chooses to become a disciple of Jesus Christ, stewardship is not an option.”

Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response
U.S. Bishops’ Pastoral Letter on Stewardship

It is difficult to promote stewardship unless there is a common understanding of what the Catholic Church truly teaches about stewardship. Some parishioners believe that stewardship is all about money and fundraising. Others think it is a program. Both are misconceptions.

Stewardship is...

- A vocation to discipleship,
- The call to follow Jesus and imitate his way of life,
- An expression of discipleship with the “power to change how we understand and live out our lives.”
- Fundamentally the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives,
- The Gospel message to develop and expand our mission to build the kingdom of God,
- The spirituality of gratitude and of generosity, and
- How we manage our lifestyle.

Stewardship always starts with the personal experience of the Risen Christ in our midst and in our hearts.

As 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.

Living as a steward is countercultural. Our culture encourages pleasure, materialism and instant gratification. By freeing ourselves from worldly attachments, we can devote ourselves more completely to God.

The U.S. Bishops call for us to adopt simpler lifestyles. As we learn to let go of material items, we come to realize the essential theme of living as stewards. There is nothing that we truly own. All is a gift from God.

