



DIOCESE OF GREAT FALLS-BILLINGS

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

P.O. Box 1399 * Great Falls, Montana 59403 * (406) 727-6683

www.diocesegfb.org

May 11, 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Pope Francis has spoken much how all the baptized are called to be “missionary disciples.” He doesn’t mean that we are necessarily supposed to go to a far off land. He means that we are to share Christ somehow right where we are. In order to do so, we must embrace a lifestyle that is marked by stewardship. Doing our part in the mission of the Church cannot take place without embracing stewardship: 1) what we do with the hours of our day; 2) how we use the abilities with which we have been blessed; 3) how we try to utilize the material resources over which we have responsibility. Everything we have and all that we are in some way is intended for the building up of the kingdom of God.

As the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings draws near to the conclusion of the *We Are An Offering* Annual Catholic Appeal, I ask those of you who have not yet participated to consider your role in the stewardship of the Diocese. It is a key way of being a “missionary disciple.”

Being a steward of God’s gifts is expressed through four convictions. First, is that God expects a degree of intentionality about the way we utilize the gifts God has entrusted to us. It comes down to a handing over of our wills to God’s.

Second, as a result of prayerful reflection, we determine how best to share and utilize our time, abilities and resources. This leads us to use what we have and who we are according to God’s plan for the salvation of people.

Third, how we share our resources with others needs to be proportionate to the way we have received from God. The Gospel is very clear that the measure by which we give is the measure by which we will receive. This places the members of the Church on a level playing field.

Fourth, when we share our resources, it must be sacrificial and not merely superficial. The image of this is Christ on the cross. Stewardship asks that we share from our substance rather than our surplus, from the first fruits of what we have and who we are and not give God the leftovers.

I thank all of you who have already shared your resources and ask prayerful consideration from those of you who have yet to do so.

In Christ,

Michael W. Warfel
Bishop of Great Falls-Billings

MT

Bishop's Livestock Brand