
Stewardship: A Disciple's Response
A Pastoral Letter on Stewardship
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied Grace" (1 Pt 4:10)

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"A Christian steward is one: who receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others and returns them with increase to the Lord."

United States Conference Catholic Bishops – Pastoral Letter
 Stewardship a Disciple's Response - United States Catholic Bishops

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Stewardship: A Disciple's Response

The Call

Jesus' Way

Living As a Steward

Stewards of the Church


The Christian Steward

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Free your imagination: dare to dream.
Pope Francis

"I really like the expression of an American author who says that God gave us two eyes, one made of flesh and the other of glass. With the eye of flesh we see what we look like, with the glass eye we see what we dream. What if we teach our children to see life with these two eyes?"



STEWARDSHIP FOR CHILDREN

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CHILDREN'S LESSON PLANS

Parish Faith Formation Classes



Catholic Schools

Parents

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- 10 lessons – 10 minutes
- Take home activity (to do with parents*)
- Catechists Lesson Review (5 to 10 minutes)
- Continued Follow-up
- Monthly activities






What is Stewardship?





Stewardship is my way of life!

Stewardship is our belief that all we have and all we are comes from God. These are called gifts. When we understand and believe this in our heart, we have to say "Thank you God"! We have to be grateful to Him! When we understand Stewardship— We become God's Stewards. No one is too young or too old to be called by Jesus. It starts with the heart! Lesson 1

1 STEWARDSHIP is: "our belief that all we have and all we are comes from God. These are our Gifts from God. We are grateful and say "Thank YOU"

2 God gives us everything
 We show gratitude
 Care for and share our gifts
 Put God first by the way
 we live our lives.

CHILDREN'S
Lesson 1

Why did God do this for us?
Because He loves us!!

TAKE HOME ACTIVITY:
God loves us and is with us every minute of every day. We can see God's love when our parents hug us, when our teachers smile at us and when our friends laugh, play games and spend time with us. Look around your house, school, church. **How else do I see God's love for me?**

Prayer:
Thank you Jesus for my life and for giving me every day to work and play. Please teach me to give and to share with others the gifts you have given me. May I always do all I do the way you would have me do it. Amen

Take Home Activity Lesson 1

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WHO IS GOD'S STEWARD?

Jesus himself, called twelve men to follow him AND become his disciples. Stewards are just like Jesus' disciples, they help to do His work here on earth. There is much work to be done on Jesus' behalf.

No one is too young or too old to be called by Jesus. Each one of us is called as a unique individual. Since all of us are called we can work together to share our lives and gifts with each other.

WHO IS GOD'S STEWARD?
Lesson 2

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE
Date _____
Church name _____
Godparents _____
Why were they chosen? _____
Something special about your baptism _____

When your parents brought you to be baptized, you became a member of the Church. You were called by name. Look for your baptismal certificate and ask your parents to tell you these things.

This is an important date for you, mark it on your calendar. Ask your parents how you can celebrate this important event every year. Maybe with a cake, your baptismal candle?

Lesson 2

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I AM GOD'S STEWARD!
Children's Lesson 3

I AM GOD'S STEWARD!

Stewardship is my way of life!
Stewardship is our belief that all we have and all we are comes from God. These are called gifts. When we understand and believe this is our heart we say "Thank you God"! We are grateful to Him!
When we understand Stewardship we become God's Stewards. No one is too young or too old to be called by Jesus. I starts with the heart!


PRAYER
Thank you Jesus for my life and for giving me every day to work and play. Please teach me to give and to share with others the gifts you have given me. May I always do all I do the way you would have me do it. AMEN

You can makeup your own prayer also

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RESPONDING TO MY CALL



Stewardship is our belief that all we have and all we are comes from God. These are called gifts. When we understand and believe this in our heart, we have to say "Thank you God"! We have to be grateful to Him! It starts with the heart! When we understand Stewardship— We become God's Stewards. No one is too young or too old to be called by Jesus, and it comes from the heart. I must say "Thank you Jesus!" Lesson 4

CHILDREN'S
Lesson 4

Responding Yes to God's call



What happens if I say "yes"?

I have accepted the call of Jesus!

I can say "Thank you" for the blessing He has given me.


I know He will give me what I need to follow Him.



I should not be afraid - I am not alone!

I will be responsible for using my gifts to answer God's call to me.


I grow with a community of believers to do His work here on earth.

I am the apostles who were fishermen. I will be making the Jesus! I will love and help others say yes to Him also!


Lesson 4

JESUS IS OUR TEACHER



"...You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for in deed I am." Mt 23:12

Jesus is our supreme or best teacher to show us how to be his steward! Jesus teaches us to think, to act and to love others the way He did.

Jesus' call is to be His stewards by the way we live our lives.

He calls us to live our lives in a **personal relationship with Him.**

A Personal relationship means we can get to know Him and talk to Him. He is our best friend and He will speak to us. We do this when we pray to Him.

When we **follow his example** it means we are willing to follow Him and to learn from Him, to be connected and to **trust Him.**

CHILDREN'S
Lesson 5



How can I follow Jesus' Example?

You can **become his example to others.** You can do this by **sharing with others your blessings/gifts.** You **share your faith** (what you believe) so **others can learn about Jesus.**

Jesus has a purpose and **plan for each one of us.** This is our personal vocation. **It is a call to know, love and serve God. This means Jesus trusts us!**

He gives us special gifts to be able to do His work. **Gifts are also called talents or blessings.** You will be responsible for using your **gifts of Time, Talents and Treasure** to answer God's call.

Fr. Nguyen talking about his parents: *"... they did this mainly by setting examples such as being involved in church and showing me love when I most needed it"*

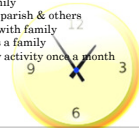



"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace" 1 Pt 4:10

STEWARDSHIP OF TIME
My special time with God
"...when you pray, do it by your inner room, close the door and pray in secret. Your Father who sees in secret will repay you!" Mt 6:6

PRAYER of gratitude or giving thanks:

- o Morning and Evening thank God for everything
- o Pray before meals
- o Pray with family
- o Pray for your parish & others
- o Attend Mass with family
- o Eat & pray as a family
- o Have a family activity once a month
- o OTHER:






CHILDREN'S
Lesson 9

STEWARDSHIP OF TALENTS /GIFTS


How I can help at church, home, school

- o Join the children/youth choir
- o Participate in CCE activities
- o Be an Altar server/usher
- o Clean my room without being asked
- o Help around the house without being asked
- o Do your homework without being asked
- o Babysit/help with younger siblings
- o Help the teacher in the classroom
- o Write a letter/thank you note to teachers/others who have helped you
- o OTHER:



REVIEW: STEWARDSHIP OF TIME, TALENT, TREASURE



CHILDREN'S Lesson 9

... now you have the opportunity to take time to pray and see how you can give back to God, as his steward, from your Time, Talent & Treasure. This should be done


"not because you have to—but Because you want to!"
... as always, do get your parent's help in making any commitments!

Lesson 9

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CHILDREN'S COMMITMENT CARD



CHILDREN'S Lesson 10

"PARISH DISCRETION"

Fr. Applegate:
"my parents encouraged us to attend Mass as a family and to get involved with the Church."

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LESSON PLAN
What is Stewardship?


"God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good..." Gen. 1:31

Catechists:
Today is the beginning of a 10 week series consisting of 45 to 10 minute lesson plans which enable our children to learn about Stewardship. We want our children to understand and believe that to be God's stewards simply means that it becomes a **"Way of Life"** instead of a one-time project or event. See heart graphic: **"It Starts with the Heart"**. Each brochure has a Stewardship prayer that can be prayed at the beginning or at the end of class. Start every lesson with a summary of what has been learned in the previous lesson found on the front of the brochure. Always encourage the children to ask their parents to review the activities with them at home.

Teaching our children:
Review everything we have and are given from God and for this: **We are to be grateful. We need to say thank you God! By putting God first in our lives—we become His Stewards! God does this because He loves us!**
"Teach children how to live, and when they are old they will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

Activity:
the children. Explain they have a **take home activity** to be done with their parents.
Ask your **self** what **other blessings** you have been given.

God's Blessings
With your parents talk about everything in the picture below which are blessings from God.



STARTS WITH THE HEART

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FOLLOW-UP!!

- ✓ Liturgies
- ✓ Ministries
- ✓ Faith Formation
- ✓ Home
- ✓ Parish Activities




FOLLOW-UP MONTHLY STEWARDSHIP THEMES:

January: Closer to God's Resolutions for a New Year

USING MY TIME & TALENTS
God gives each one of us twenty-four (24) hours a day and we are expected to make the best use of it.

Stewardship of Family

Jan 6th - Epiphany of the Lord - the Three Wise Men brought gifts to Jesus - what is your gift for Jesus? As a Catholic tradition is for families to bless their homes on the Feast of the Epiphany. As a family read Luke 2:1-6 & See Home Blessing on parish website or look for a copy in the Narthex.

March Stewardship Theme



Stewardship of Community

Sharing the Load

Let's Fill the Bus



GIFT of my Treasure
Treasure is something valuable, can be money, jewels, gold, silver. Treasure is also something that is very special and important to us.

Join us on March XX-XX, 2014 as we embark on a parish wide mission to fill our bus with non-perishable food, clothing, and furniture!
Let us help our community by giving from our abundance and from our many blessings.

Review:

- Children's lesson plan/take home activity-parents
- Catechists Lesson Review (5 minutes)
- 10 lessons - (one week/lesson; second week/review)
- Continued Follow-up -

Review:

& MORE

- Customized to Parish needs
- Age level appropriate
- Five/Six year cycle

Prayer:
 Thank you Jesus for my life and for giving me every day to work and play.
 Please teach me to give and to share with others the gifts you have given me.
 May I always do all I do the way you would have me do it. Amen





This picture of St. Clare of Assisi is a reminder of Jesus washing the feet of His disciples.

**PILOT PROGRAM
COACHING/TRAINING**

WORKSHOPS: Stewardship a Disciples Response

- Catechists, aides
- Volunteers
- **Parents!!**
- Everyone!



Questions



CONTACT INFORMATION:
 Coni Perez coniperez@sbcglobal.net
 (832-496-8135)
 Marcie Devine 281-773-5510