

Stewardship

Resource Center Italiano

## Stewardship

2018



2018 can be heart changing and mind expanding for each of us. In today's culture we only consider short-term results far too often. Our long-range outlook can seem clouded by the worry or fear about an unclear personal or family's future. It may be time to stop what you are doing, step back, look at yourself and switch to a more long-term plan. Ask yourself today:

- What will matter at the end?
- What memory of me will I gift to you?
- What do I want to have now that will last for my lifetime?
- What do I do and say each day that makes tomorrow better for others?

Stewardship should be a daily practice. True Stewardship is not just about giving money, or serving on a committee. Stewardship is the humble understanding that all we are and all we possess are gifts that have been given to us. How we use our gifts is our lifelong task and responsibility. Stewards realize God's generosity can not be matched and that true stewardship comes from within. It is a way of life that includes caring for ourselves physically, emotionally and spiritually. In addition, Stewardship calls us to care for our families, friends and those in our community. Stewardship is a given challenge that can require change of mind and heart or a conversion. If change is needed, it can be difficult process. It is not a one-time event. Let 2018 be the year of transition.

Take your first steps on a new Stewardship path. Take the time to examine your gifts. Create new avenues for sharing your gifts with others. Becoming a true steward requires prayer, meditation, trust and time. It calls us to reassess our priorities and make adjustments in the importance we place on things. It affects every aspect of our family life, work life and spiritual life. This year trust in the grace of God. Know that the benefits of a stewardship lifestyle are endless. Recognize that the greatest benefit of being a steward is knowing that value has been added to the lives of others through actions and words. Small gestures take on great meaning and give great reward when applied with love in the spirit of the Holy Family. Stewardship is more than just managing all that we have. Being a steward is not just something else to do. Along with many other things good people do, it is a total way of life and requires continual thought and effort. A good steward receives God's gifts gratefully, cultivates them responsibly, shares them fairly and lovingly in honor to the Lord. Join me on the journey...I hope to see you on the path.



## Stewardship

Wishing you a year of peace and simple well-being. Michelle

2017

The stewardship of today...is about more than money. It is about the caregiving of yourself and other people. Each of us has been given the responsibility of caregiving. This caregiving includes giving of your time, relationships, talents, passions, energy, lifestyle, the environment and money. Try thinking of Stewardship as a developing attitude of gratitude. We have been given much. What we don't have should be dismissed as an unnecessary want. What we have is what we need and must be cared for wisely and shared generously before more is given. Stewardship is an important daily activity. How you take care of all that God has blessed you with should be a priority. For a life of stewardship you may want to start by tending to your health, your relationships, your work, your possessions, your finances, your recreation, God's creation, your community or your faith life.

### **Stewardship in a culture of hyper-consumption**

Stewardship can be a difficult action plan in the current culture of hyper-consumerism. Lifestyle pressures are often exhausting when we find ourselves over-scheduled, over-worked, over-spent and over-committed. A good steward must refocus on activities that give fulfillment and meaning, slow down and adapt our calendars to match our need. If your world is framed by "instant," you may be left frustrated and wanting-looking for instant news, constant contact, unlimited access, or meals provided with no waiting in the drive-through lane. You might seek instant gratification; abhor silence, and get constant stimulation by your electronic devices. If your personal life is filled with cellphones, credit cards, and keys you may be instantly available, scheduled for every opportunity, able to buy without price, and protective of your stuff. Worst of all, you may not notice that your possessions begin to possess you.

### **Stewardship conversations in a culture of hyper-consumerism**

It is often a challenge to think that stewardship and personal giving is a spiritual experience rather than a financial transaction. When you recognize God's abundant love, grace and blessings you realize that God has provided you with everything you need. Jesus calls you to put your trust in him, to grow in faith through living as his disciple and to put your possessions into proper perspective (to possess them and not be possessed by them). Jesus invites you to put your trust in God's abundance, not in your possessions. When you see the motto on your money-In God We Trust-let it be a reminder that your trust is in God and allow your conversations about stewardship can take on an enthusiastic and energetic tone. We constantly receive information about the economy, possessions, financial markets, and the price of things. Consider that it may be time, necessity and opportunity to create a simpler life where you can focus upon your relationship with Jesus, grow as a disciple and learn to be a better steward of all that God has blessed you with.

### **Three ways to develop healthy stewardship**

1. Engage in conversation about your personal stewardship journey, and especially your steps toward a tithe and beyond.

Look at the financial tools provided for preparing a budget and balance sheet of assets and liabilities.

2. Become a stewardship leader. The Competencies of a Well-formed Steward Leader are engage, discern and shape a path to form these leaders.

3. Build confidence and invite others to participate in and support God's work.  
Continue to reflect on these principles and consider

6 key principles of stewardship –

1. Gratitude
2. Sharing
3. Sacrifice
4. Commitment
5. Generosity of spirit, self and Giving freely
6. Abundant joy

Adapted from Stewardship 101 as found in ***Make It Simple***



## Stewardship

“Money is not the only commodity that is fun to give. We can give time, we can give our expertise, we can give our love or simply give a smile. What does that cost? The point is, none of us can ever run out of something worthwhile to give.”

Steve Goodier

# 2016

When thinking about a lifestyle it is important to accept that everything we have and all we achieve are gifts. Being grateful for each day and for what we have is a key element to living life well. Every day is a gift in itself and a new opportunity to show our gratefulness and be generous to others. Better yet, everyone can add the element of stewardship, based on the simple principle of reciprocation (giving back or passing forward) into your daily activities. In other words, the sharing of both physical and material gifts that have been given embraces and creates generosity and gracious behaviors and lifelong practices. Those who contribute are, by definition, living a lifestyle of stewardship. Living a stewardship lifestyle requires the understanding of stewardship. Stewardship is the careful and responsible support and management of something in your environment. Three components in Stewardship are often referred to as the three “t’s” (time, talent and treasure). Stewardship is the willingness to incorporate and contribute the three t’s into daily living experiences and the essence of a well-lived day and a life lived well.

### Why is a stewardship lifestyle important?

1. Stewardship provides a knowledge and understanding of wants and needs.
2. Stewardship allows for the evaluation and prioritization of wants vs. needs
3. Stewardship demonstrates a pro-active model for living a lifestyle that includes learning, teaching, motivation, empowerment, responsible actions, and compassion.

2014 -2015



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