

## **Brother Steward**

### *Lay Reader Message*

## **Stewards in Partnership**

Faithful stewards live their lives in service for Christ because Christ dwells in them and they desire to please him. As his steward, you are “*an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work*” (2 Timothy 2:21). God calls us into his fellowship and partnership through his Son and equips us to be faithful stewards.

In John 15:5, Jesus explains fully what it means to be in partnership with him. Jesus said “*I am the Vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*” We are branches which have no life by ourselves, but we receive life from the vine. The vine supports and sustains the branches on which the fruit appears. Faithful stewards are branches that bear much fruit as Jesus, the vine, nourishes them. In this way, God calls us into partnership with himself.

As stewards, our partnership with Christ is made possible because God dwells in us. 1 John 4:15 reads, “*If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him, and he in God.*” When God dwells with in us, we are no longer the same. He transforms and molds us into stewards who willingly surrender our will to seek his will. No longer is it “I” or “me”, but God who works through us to accomplish his purpose. Our lives are dedicated to him, and we are prepared for tasks given to us as God takes us into full partnership.

On our own we can do nothing. Only as we stay connected to Jesus can we be faithful and fruitful stewards. In comparison to what Jesus provides, our part in the partnership is small, but God has chosen us to extend his Kingdom. On earth, we are God’s hands, feet, and mouth. We have been created to do good works that he has prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10). With God as our senior partner, we can make a difference in our families, churches, places of work, and our communities. When we allow Christ to work through us, we will see how God can multiply and magnify our talents, gifts, and resources.

# Brother Steward

## *It's "T" Time for Church!*

*Back in the early days of Scotland's St. Andrews, we Brothers had to console many widows who lost their beloved on the Links due to lightning strikes, or strokes from a bad game. Unable to pay taxes, their lands were confiscated by the King's Collectors.*

*So our Brother in charge of "Woe is Me" cases came up with the idea of a last will and testament for golfers. The spouses would be protected if their husbands finished a round in that Great Heavenly Course in the Sky.*

*Of course, the Brother asked for small amount to keep the Monastery afloat. Hence, "T" time at church means Time Talent and Treasure. In this case "T" is for Treasure. So, please consider your weekly and annual gifts. A planned gift through a will, trust, or annuity, would greatly benefit the church and reward you with some tax savings.*

*Planning ahead whether it be in the game of golf or life itself is a good thing to do. Avoid financial sand traps and keep on the fairway.*

*God bless you.*



# Brother Steward

## *Alive in the Spirit of Giving!*

*Back in the good ol' days, it wasn't so good for the poor and hungry. So we Monks and Brother Friars would go door-to-door begging for funds to feed the less fortunate. Sometimes the doors were miles apart, so hoofing around the countryside was exhausting; but fruitful.*

*It led to the invention of the offertory envelope. It went out instead of us and came back filled with funds and no blisters. Many parishioners faithfully use offertory envelopes and along with cash in the basket, we can help the poor and hungry, pay our utility bills, maintain our property, and occasionally, spring for a good pair of walking shoes. And that will help us kick-off the season in September!*

*God Bless!*

