

Brother Steward

Lay Reader Message

Our Vocation as Stewards

A steward is someone who oversees the affairs for someone else. That person is a caretaker, an administrator, and a manager for an owner. In the time of Jesus, the steward represented a trusted overseer of a household. Jesus said in Luke 12:42, *“Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time?”*

As God’s stewards, we realize that we have been gifted with much. As recipients of God’s blessings, we are managers, not owners. As Paul said in 1 Corinthians 4:7, *“What do you have that you did not receive?”* Everything we are, have, and will be are gifts from God. We have been blessed so we can be a blessing to others. Each of us receives varying amounts of talents and treasures, but all of us are called to be faithful in the stewardship of what we receive. In the words of Jesus, *“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked”* (Luke 12:48).

We are all stewards. Some of us are faithful stewards who manage God’s blessings in God-pleasing ways, while others mismanage them. Others have chosen to be self-centered stewards who only serve themselves. Some of us may want to be good stewards but lack wisdom. To illustrate this point Paul Lindholm, in his book *First Fruits*, told the story about a man who on a hot summer day decided to stretch out with his pet monkey under the shade of a large tree. When a fly disturbed him, he ordered his pet monkey which was beside him to keep the fly away. The fly landed on the man’s nose and the monkey killed it with a stone badly bruising his master’s nose. The monkey was faithful but not wise. We can be stewards who at times will do foolish things, but because of his faithfulness, God will forgive us and give us the wisdom we need to be fruitful and God-pleasing stewards.

As God’s stewards, we understand that we are on a journey with Jesus Christ to serve God’s world wherever we are placed. As God sent Jesus, we are sent. We have a high vocation that requires us to have hearts filled with God’s love and minds focused on God’s will. As the Apostle Peter wrote in 1 Peter 4:10, *“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”*

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Alive in the Spirit of Prayer

Hats off to my brother Monks in Ireland! Long before the invention of the printing press in the 1400s, they copied by hand the new and old testament, all the important writings of the Popes and other theologians. No copy machines, just pen, ink, parchment and beautiful illustrations were used. Without these diligent souls, many of us would never have known the written word of God.

The Monks inspired a renewed interest in sacred books and religious articles. Lo, and behold, I have found a modern treasure trove of these in better Christian bookstores across the land. Think of the Monks that were the stewards of these great works!

God Bless.



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What's "Sharing Your Treasure" all about?

Well, in the Old Days, when the church was pinched for funds due to the King's taxes, local wars, or famine, we would plead with our parishioners for donations. We'd get some coins, lots of chickens, and promises. One Brother suggested we look to Scripture for inspiration.



Sure enough, it was written that all of our gifts come from God and we are stewards of those gifts of time, talent, and treasure. There it was, treasure! In today's terms that meant checks, bucks, but no clucks, wills, trusts, even hedge funds ... all to be shared in support of the parish and God's work.

Well, history is repeating itself. In most churches overhead is up and collections are down. Your caring and sharing has sustained us over the past many years and will continue to! So, with guarded optimism and your help with our offertory collections, we march into the next half century and express our thanks. Onward!

God Bless.

