

## **Brother Steward**

*Lay Reader Message*

### **Our Best Intentions**

*“I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do,”* (Romans 7:15), so spoke the Apostle Paul. Somehow he could not translate his best intentions into the actions he wished to do. This is the dilemma that has afflicted Christians who sincerely want to do God’s will.

Peter experienced it too. *“Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death”* (Luke 22:33), he declared, and he meant it. His best intentions were to stick with his Lord, no matter what.

Thomas, too, expressed his intentions. When Jesus said he was going back to Judea where the Jews had tried to stone him, the disciples tried to dissuade him. Realizing that nothing could stop Jesus from going to his friend Lazarus, Thomas said to the disciples, *“Let us also go, that we may die with him”* (John 11:16). He meant it too.

Yet, Peter denied knowing his Lord, and all the disciples fled in fear the night of his betrayal (Mark 14:50). What they wanted to do, they failed to do. What they wanted not to do, that is what they did. We understand the dilemma well. Like Peter, we weep when faced with our failures. But we do not despair, for we have learned that, while on our own we fail, with God we can do great things.

Christ went to his death in order to buy us back from sin, death, and the devil. We are no longer captive to sin and immobilized by it. *“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us”* (Romans 8:37). Jesus lived the perfect life for us; he shed his blood in payment for our sins; he suffered in our places; and he gives us grace that forgives our failures and gives us more opportunities to bear the fruit he called us and chose us to bear. Truly, with God we can do great things.

# Brother Steward

## Testing Our Commitment

*Lent is a time to be proactive and truly alive in the spirit of Christ. Instead of pleasing ourselves, it is a time of meditation, worship, and helping others through God's gifts to us of time, talent and treasure. Lent is a time that tests our stewardship of these gifts. Here's what we can do.*



**Time:** Use it to pray: the Stations of the Cross, for thanks, requests, the sick, our priests, sisters, military, country, peace, our children, and families. Pray at home, in the office, while walking, before sleep.

**Talents:** Help others, volunteer for food bank, visit the sick, call the lonely, restore a home for an aging couple, counsel the depressed, teach the bible.

**Treasure:** Add an extra dollar a week to the offertory collection. This supports our ministries. What you save on giving up candy, a donut, a latte, smokes, a six pack, donate to the offertory collection. The needy need help! Don't wait! Commit!

God Bless!



# Brother Steward

## *Where Were You When JFK Was Shot?*

*Many of you remember where you were and what you were doing. Same thing when the Twin Towers went down in New York City.*

*But can you remember what you were doing, or where you were last Good Friday? Maybe it's time to step back from worldly events and for just a few minutes during the three hours on this week's Good Friday, think about the Passion and Crucifixion of our Lord. And maybe, as good stewards, say a few prayers in thanksgiving for his gifts to us; or for some special intention of yours.*

*As the gospel hymn asks: were you there when they nailed him to a tree? The answer is no, but we can be there in spirit each Good Friday, if only for a few respectful and memorable moments.*

*God  
Bless!*



**GOOD FRIDAY**  
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# Brother Steward

## *Spring Forward. Fall Back. Time Flies.*

*With Daylight Savings Time why not save a little more time for the Lord.*

*By our calculations there are 86,400 seconds in a day. How many of those seconds do we spend waiting in line at stores, in traffic jams, on the phone, in doctor's offices, or doing nothing? Why not activate your stewardship and spend some of those fleeing seconds each day in prayer, in worship, in the service of others, or in the pursuit of finding funds for our ministries. Every second lost or wasted could be turned into a saved soul or a miracle.*



*Each day God gives us a gift of 86,400 seconds to waste or use wisely. How much time does it take to say: "Jesus, I need you," "Jesus thank you," "Jesus, how can I help you?" or "Jesus I love you?" For this holy season of Lent a simple prayer is time well-spent!*

*God Bless!*

