THE GIFT OF GIVING

Stewardship: A Way of Life

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EVANGELIZATION

• What does it mean?

• Evangelization is bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ into every human situation. (usccb.org)

• Angels are Messengers of God
• People who evangelize are angels (messengers) of God’s love.
STEWARDSHIP AND EVANGELIZATION ARE TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN.

• Evangelization leads you to become a disciple of Jesus. (Conversion)

• Once you are a disciple of Jesus, what are you going to do? What are you supposed to do? Well, you are supposed to become a Good Steward. What do Good Stewards do? They use their gifts, and they use what they have to introduce other people to Jesus, to our Catholic way of life.
The Christian life cycle:

1. Begins with **Evangelization**. (seed)
2. Continues through **Discipleship**. (tree)
3. And becomes fruitful with **Stewardship**, as the blessings received from Him are shared with others. (fruits)
• **Prayer**: Parish and Pastor
  - Do I dedicate significant time to prayer? When was the last time I prayed for my pastor? Do I teach my children and family the importance of prayer?

• **Participation**: Ministries and parish groups
  - How did you use your time and gifts? Do you do it? If not, this is a good opportunity to start doing it. "It’s never too late to love." Either one day a week, or one hour a year, all God wants is your help in building his Kingdom.

• **Generosity**: Treasure and material goods
  - Material goods and money are gifts that God gives us. He asks us to care for him and to share generously for the good of our neighbor and brothers in Christ.
ELEMENTS OF PARISH SACRIFICIAL GIVING

- Planned: Giving is not a spur-of-moment decision but it is integrated with other financial decision as part of a careful, intentional response to God’s generosity.
- Proportionate: We give in proportion to what we have been given
- Sacrificial: Our giving is sacrificial when it comes from our substance rather than our abundance.
- Gift: No gift is truly a gift unless it is given freely, without reservation or condition.
REMEMBER:

• God cannot be outdone in generosity.

• A moderate increase by all the families in a parish would have a great impact on a Parish’s opportunity to evangelize and help its community in their day-to-day spiritual and material needs.

• “Stewardship is what you do with what you have when you believe in God.”
  - Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin C.Ss.R.