

STEWARDSHIP MOMENTS

Fifth Week in Ordinary Time Weekend of February 5/6

Jesus said to his followers “You are the light of the world...your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.” Christian stewards allow the light of Christ to shine through them to reach others. A good reflection question for the week: In what ways do we allow the light of Christ to shine through us?

Sixth Week in Ordinary Time Weekend of February 12/13

In today’s Gospel, part of his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus does not speak of replacing the law of the Old Testament. He goes beyond it. He obliges his followers to work at being holier than even the strictest of Pharisees. But the work is not accomplished by following a religious “law”, it requires growing in love for other human beings. Followers of Jesus know they are required to be good stewards of others. In what way will you exercise good stewardship over other people this week?

Seventh Week in Ordinary Time Weekend of February 19/20

In another passage from his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus continues to turn his disciples’ way of thinking upside down. One of the lessons for the Christian steward in today’s Gospel is that if we have a chance to help someone in need, we should be generous and give more than is expected of us. Jesus went “the extra mile” for us. Can we be more like Jesus and “go the extra mile” for others?

Eighth Week in Ordinary Time Weekend of February 26/27

Saint Paul reminds us as baptized Christians, as those who have shared the Eucharist with one another, that we are “servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.” We are not to define ourselves by our age, ethnicity, gender, social status, work, vocation or avocation. Our primary self-understanding should be that of servants and stewards of the Lord and all that has been entrusted to us. Can we accept this self-understanding? Do we find it encouraging?

Practical Stewardship: Jesus is our Model

*Adapted from an article by Rick Jeric,
Director of Stewardship and Development, Diocese of Columbus, Ohio*

Did you take an accounting of your stewardship of time, talent, and treasure at the beginning of this New Year? I hope this accounting, which is both practical and spiritual, is something which we will do periodically. This personal effort is even more important than regular visits to the doctor or dentist. Our physical health is a top priority. Our spiritual health determines eternal life. So, what is more important? Our journey to heaven and eternal life with God is guided by our good and faithful stewardship.

How we spend our time, how we use our talent, and where we spend our treasure are all efforts by which we maintain the life of a Christian. Jesus is our model.

As Christian stewards, it goes without saying that we have a responsibility to follow the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

The Gospels are filled with examples of our Lord’s prayer life, his relationship with family and friends, his teachings and his ministry. Jesus was obedient to his Father in heaven. But he also obeyed and respected his earthly parents. Jesus bowed his head

and was baptized by John the Baptist. He preached the Sermon on the Mount, he served those in need. He confronted the rich and powerful. He cured, consoled, healed, and forgave. As Christian stewards we must also be people of prayer; and like Jesus, we must be willing to bow our heads, serve, cure, heal, forgive and proclaim the Gospel in creative ways. We too must be people of action. Let our practical challenge in the month of February be to bravely take steps to model the life and ministry of Jesus, and act in a way pleasing to the Father. No rationalizing. No exceptions. No age Limits. We must live an authentic Christian life each and every day. Pray, act, live, and love. Do all to the fullest, as Jesus did