

STEWARDSHIP AS A CALL TO ACTION

Our recent parish stewardship renewal has invited all of us, as disciples of Jesus Christ, to share God's gifts of time, talent and treasure for the building of the Kingdom of God. Many parishioners have prayerfully identified their particular gifts from God, and discerned how they will share these gifts in the service of others. Further, many have formally documented their intention to share their gifts during the new year in specific, concrete ways by completing and submitting a stewardship commitment form.

God's universal gift to all people of a free will allows everyone to individually choose how they will use, or not use, their gifts of time, talent and treasure. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to his service. But Jesus does not call us as nameless people in a faceless crowd. He calls us individually, by name. Each one of us - whether clergy, religious or lay person; married or single; adult or child - has a personal vocation and mission in carrying out the divine plan.

Jesus calls each of us to actively do God's will, to actively proclaim the Good News of Salvation, to actively heal the afflicted, and to actively care for one's brothers and sisters. Collectively, through the individual vocations of countless disciples throughout the ages and throughout the world, the Kingdom of God is built; "For we are God's co-workers" (1 Corinthians 3:9).

The challenge is to understand our mission - our personal vocation - in God's plan. The stewardship way of life is an answer to the call of Jesus. It enables us to discern our personal vocation in direct relationship to the individual, particular set of gifts given to us. It helps us to identify our particular mission as an active, committed, dedicated and effective co-worker in building the Kingdom of God.

The time for complacency and passivity is gone; the time for action is now.

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