

# STEWARDSHIP IN THE DIOCESE ▶ OF WICHITA

A GRATEFUL RESPONSE  
TO GOD'S ABUNDANT GIFTS

# A Stewardship Prayer

Help us, Lord, so that we would hold nothing back,  
that no sacrifice would be too great,  
too costly, or too unthinkable.

Send us, Lord, heroes and heroines of stewardship,  
saints on the journey whose walk as disciples  
inspire us to imitate and pattern our own lives after.

# A Stewardship Prayer

Put on our path, Lord, men, women, and children

who will model for us - for our diocese -

how to live, how to serve,

how to love the Lord with all our hearts.

Let this be our prayer,

let this be our greatest desire and intention.



► Most Reverend Carl Kemme

# Stewardship



*the grateful response*



*of a Christian disciple*



*who recognizes and receives God's gifts*



*and shares these gifts*



*in love of God and neighbor.*

Introduction  
- Msgr.  
Thomas  
McGread

A stewardship way of life is a thanksgiving way of life, living life as God intended it to be lived.

It's not a program. It's a way of life.



## Msgr. Thomas McGread

- ▶ I noticed that people are looking for standards in life... If we're looking for standards in life we also must be looking for standards in our relationship with God...I realized there must be more to this idea of building a relationship with God. So that's when I came up with the idea that all of us have a certain amount of time in this world, and all of us have a certain amount of talents.



## The Stewardship Way of Life

- ▶ Stewardship is a way of life. It is not something we turn on and off. It is like breathing. Once it becomes part of our life it happens very naturally. Those who have experienced the true joy and peace of stewardship do not see stewardship as a burden but rather the only true way to live as Disciples of Christ. - Fr. Ken Schuckman

## Image of God: Genesis 1:26-31



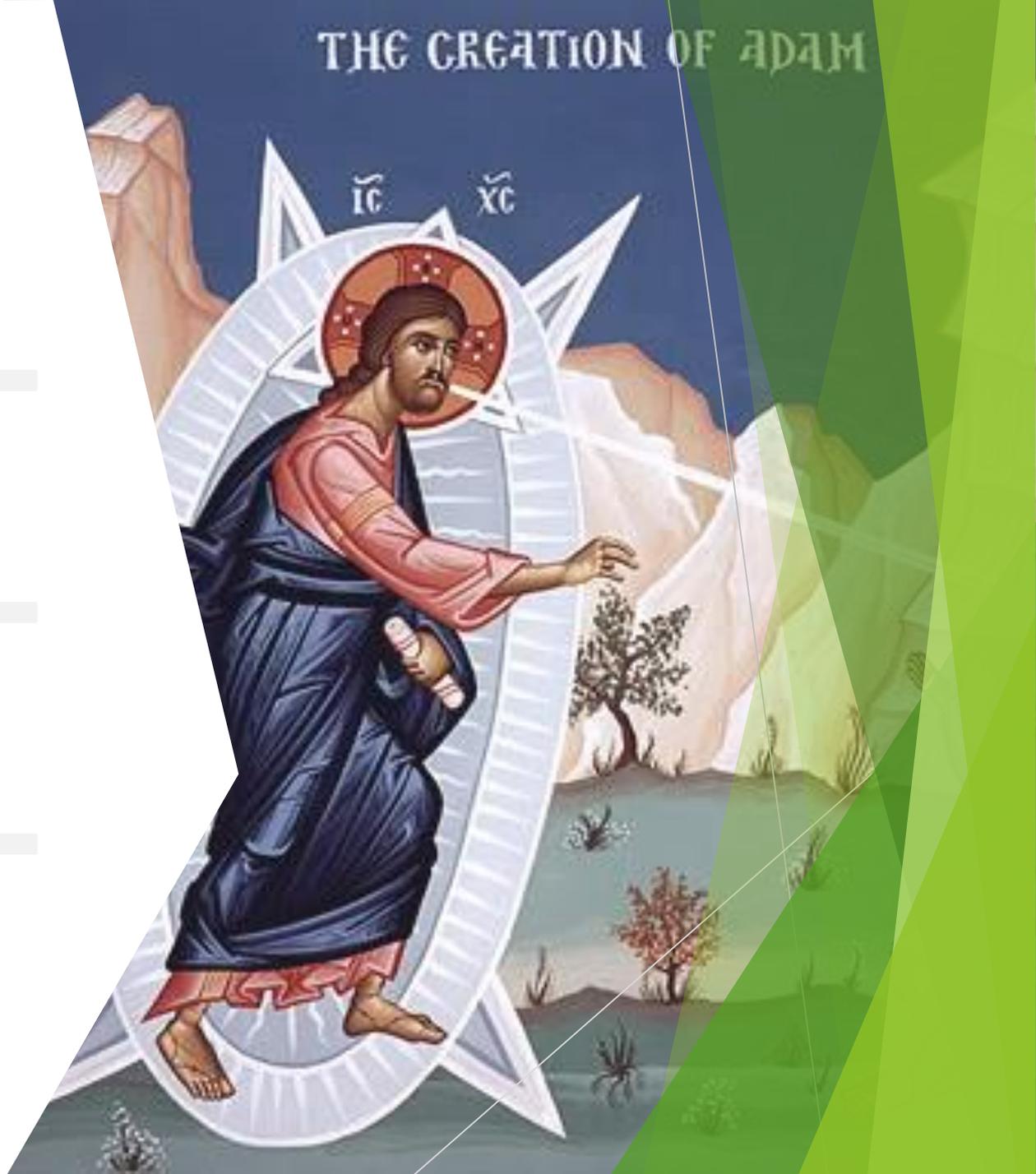
God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them (Gen 1:27).



Man appears in creation as one who has received the world as a gift. - Pope St. John Paul II



Just as it is intrinsic to God's identity to give, so too, we who are created "in his image" are called to give.



# Made for Communion: Gen 2:7-24



- ▶ naming the animals
- ▶ Yet he is “alone”  
seeking a  
“suitable partner”
- ▶ “At last” (v. 23).

# First-fruits and interiority



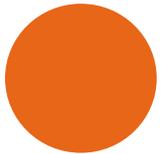
Cain brought an offering to the Lord from the fruit of the soil, while Abel, for his part, brought one of the best firstlings of his flock”

(Gen 4:3-5).

# The Parable of the Talents



TALENT = 110 LBS  
OF SILVER



...PHYSICAL  
ABILITIES,  
INTELLECTUAL OR  
MORAL  
APTITUDES, THE  
BENEFITS DERIVED  
FROM SOCIAL  
COMMERCE, AND  
THE DISTRIBUTION  
OF WEALTH. -  
(CCC 1936)



PERSONAL  
ENDOWMENTS,...  
NATURAL  
ABILITIES AND  
APTITUDES,...  
FINANCIAL  
RESOURCES,...  
SPIRITUAL  
GIFTS,... [OR  
POSSIBLY EVEN]  
THE KNOWLEDGE  
OF THE MYSTERIES  
OF THE KINGDOM  
OF HEAVEN



# The Parable of the Talents



mutual trust, responsibility, and accountability



Well done, my good and faithful servant... Come, share your master's joy.



A *steward* is one who receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord. - USCCB

# The Widow's Mite

- ▶ Truly I say to you that this poor widow put in more than the rest; for these others have all made offerings from their surplus wealth, be she, from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood. - Luke 21:1-4



# Self-Emptying, Self-Donation

## Phil 2:5-8

- ▶ Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus. - v. 5
- ▶ ...who though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. v. 6
- ▶ ...he emptied (*kenoō*) himself,  
taking the form of a slave. - vs. 7



# Self-Emptying, Self-Donation



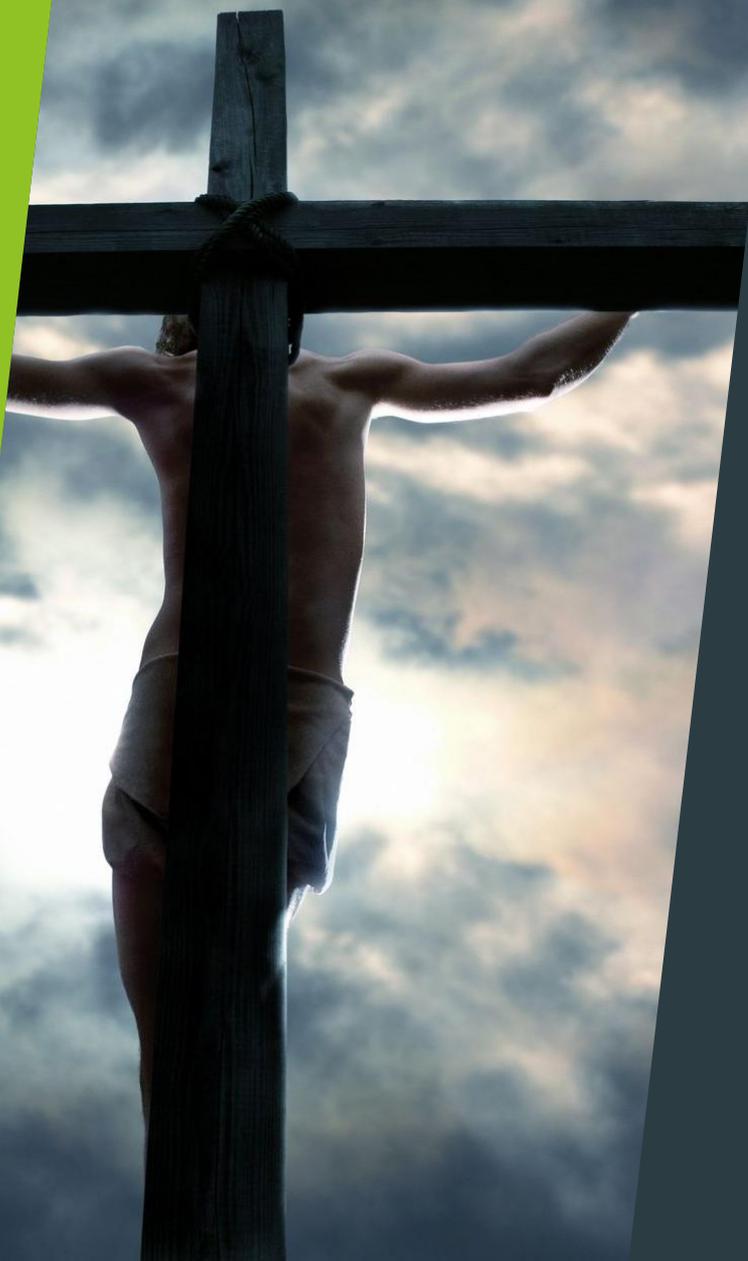
Engenders gratitude, elicits a response, and encourages imitation



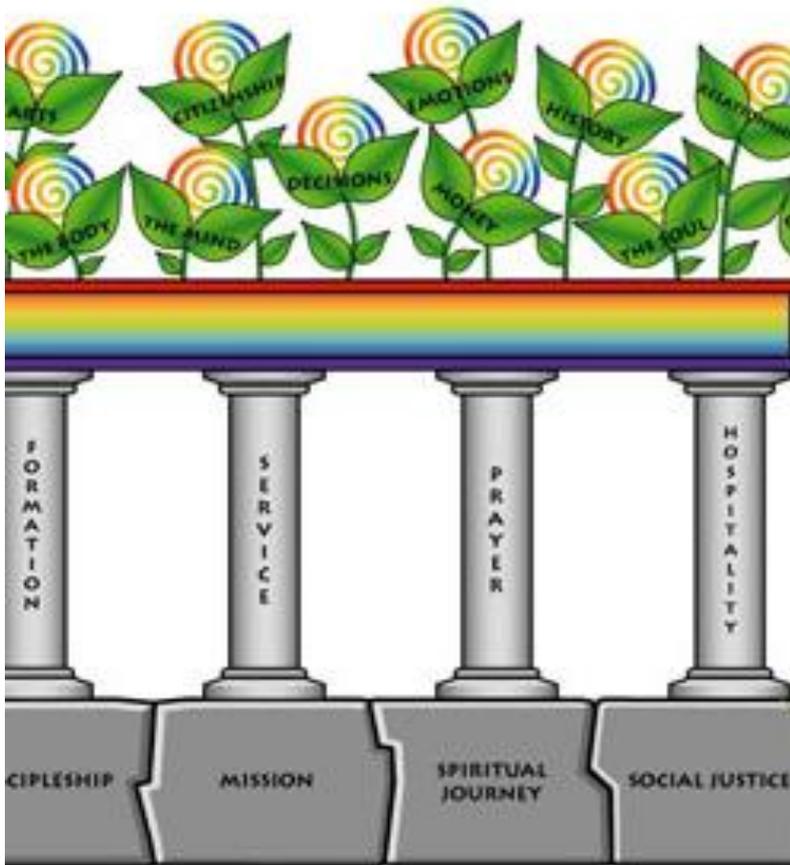
I want not what is yours, but you. -  
2 Cor. 12:14



Parishioners who fully appreciate the magnitude of Jesus' daily gift of Himself will full appreciate the debt we owe in return. - *Living Life as God Intended It*

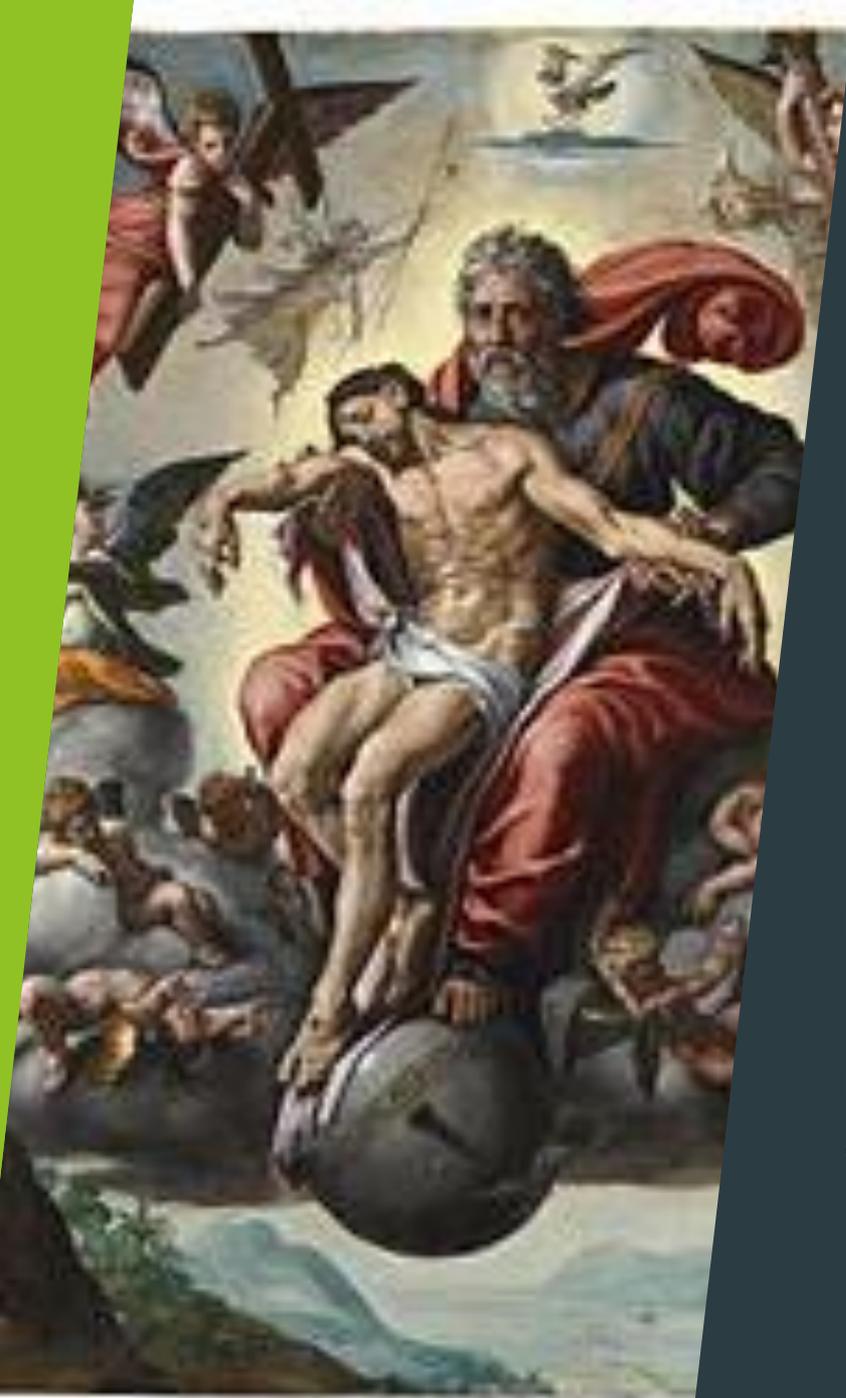


“For your sake he became poor although he was rich, so that by his poverty you might become rich” (2 Cor 9:8).



# The Four Pillars of Stewardship

1 Peter 4:7-11



## The Four Pillars of Stewardship 1 Peter 4:7-11

- ▶ As each one has received a gift (*charisma*), use it to serve one another as good stewards (*oikonomos*) of God's varied grace. - 1 Pet 4:10
- ▶ *Oikonomos* - Steward
- ▶ *Oikonomia* - Economy of Salvation



# The Four Pillars of Stewardship

- ▶ Therefore, be serious and sober for prayers. Above all, let your love for one another be intense... Be hospitable to one another without complaining (1 Pet 4:7-9).
- ▶ Love of God
- ▶ Love of neighbor
- ▶ *agape* love: self-sacrificial love that is revealed in Jesus' self-emptying and self-donation

# The Four Pillars of Stewardship



Whoever preaches (*laleō*), let it be with the words of God; whoever serves (*diakonia*), let it be done with the strength God supplies. v. 11



*Laleō*: to preach - the gift of wisdom, or knowledge, or prophecy, doctrine, exhortation, interpretation



*Diakonia*: to serve - healing, help, administration, contributing, giving aid, and acts of mercy

Trinitarian  
Foundation  
of  
Stewardship



# Trinitarian Foundation of Stewardship

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit. - Mt 28:19

Jesus is always present drawing us more nearly, more dearly, more clearly into the mutual reciprocity and interdependent relationships which the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit enjoy without beginning or end. - Gerber

# Trinitarian Foundation of Stewardship

- ▶ Stewardship is rooted in the relationship of the three Divine Persons. From all eternity the divine relationship of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are altogether **mutual**, **reciprocal**, and **interdependent**. From the very first God intended Adam and Eve and their descendants to be drawn fully into the communion which the three divine persons enjoy. The central teaching of the Greek Fathers is that the Christian life is not simply to make us better people, ethically upright, but to make us divine, to conform us to a participation in the life of the Trinity.

# Trinitarian Foundation of Stewardship

- ▶ The lay person should learn especially how to perform the mission of Christ and the Church by basing his life on belief in the divine mystery of creation and redemption and by being sensitive to the movement of the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God and who urges all to love God the Father as well as the world and men in Him. This formation should be deemed the **basis and condition for every successful apostolate** (AA, 30).



# The Magisterial Foundations of Stewardship

Apostolate, Discipleship,  
Holiness, Evangelization,  
Mission

# The Apostolate

- ▶ The Church was founded for the purpose of **spreading the kingdom of Christ** throughout the earth for the glory of God the Father, to enable all men to share in His saving redemption, and that through them the whole world might enter into a relationship with Christ. **All activity of the Mystical Body** directed to the attainment of this goal is called the **apostolate**, which the Church carries on in various ways through all her members (AA, 2).

# The Lay Apostolate

- ▶ Since, like all the Christian faithful, lay persons are designated by God for the apostolate through baptism and confirmation, they are bound by the general obligation and possess the right as individuals, or joined in associations, to work so that the divine message of salvation is made known and accepted by all persons everywhere in the world (CIC no. 225).



# The Lay Apostolate: the Family



It is in the family, then, where Christ's self-donating love is first taught and learned. - Wichita



The whole family in its common life, then, should be a sort of apprenticeship for the apostolat” (AA, 30).



Where even young people learn how their natural qualities, fit them for this activity (AA 12).



## Discipleship and Stewardship

Stewardship is a  
“response of a  
Christian Disciple.”

# Discipleship



A *disciple* is one who responds to Christ's call, follows Jesus, and shapes his or her life in imitation of Christ's. - USCCB



Mature disciples make a conscious, firm decision, carried out in action, to be followers of Jesus Christ no matter the cost to themselves. - USCCB



Once one becomes a Disciple of Jesus Christ, stewardship is not an option. - Bishop McRaith

# What is the Difference between Discipleship and Stewardship?

FAMILIAL LOVE



SPOUSAL  
LOVE

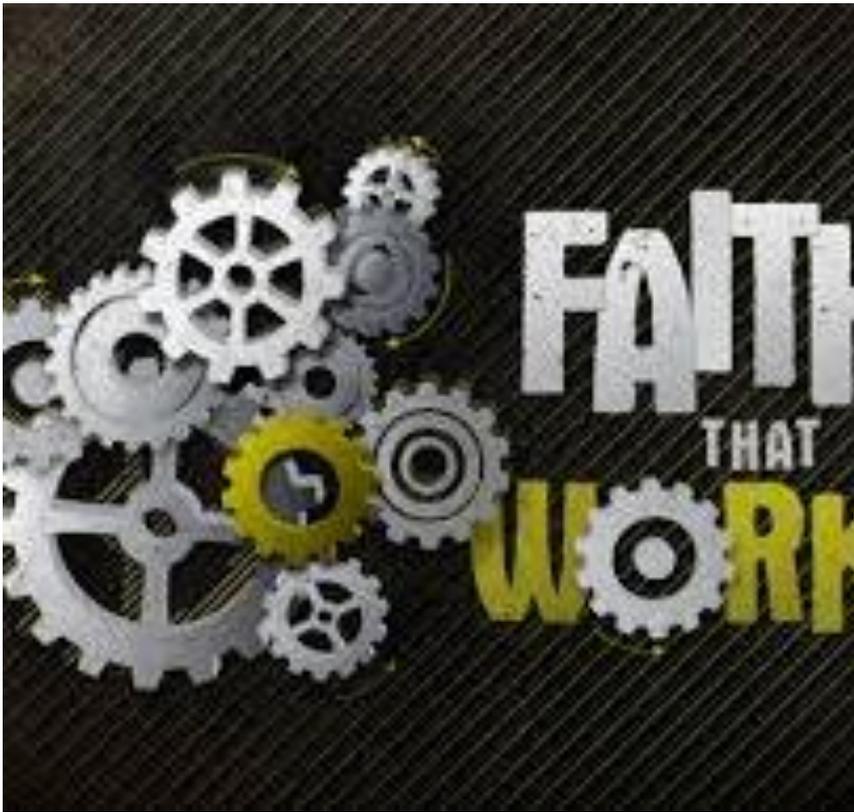


# What is the Difference between Discipleship and Stewardship?



- ▶ The pope said viewing the church as a family emphasizes shared responsibility, mutual support and joint action. - Cindy Wooten, CNS

# Discipleship and Stewardship



- ▶ Discipleship is to one's **identity** in Christ what stewardship is one's **mission** to fellow disciples
- ▶ Discipleship is to **faith** what stewardship is to the **work** that exemplifies that faith (James 2:18).



## Stewardship and Holiness

All are called to sanctity and have received an equal privilege of faith through the justice of God. - LG, 32



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# Stewardship and Vocation

# Stewardship and Evangelization

- ▶ The practice of authentic Christian stewardship inevitably leads to evangelization. - USCCB



# Evangelization

Evangelization is the proclamation of the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ with the goal of leading people to discipleship through faith and conversion.

It seeks to convert not only the person but also, as Pope Paul VI says, “the collective consciences of people, the activities in which they engage, and the lives and concrete milieu which are theirs. - EN 18

# Kerygma

- ▶ the basic proclamation of the Gospel
- ▶ The kerygma is not an “optional contribution” for the Church but is the “first and fundamental way of serving” (EN 5; RM 20).
- ▶ For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. - John 3:16



# The Kerygma



# Stewardship and Mission



- ▶ Missionary outreach is paradigmatic for all the Church's activity... we need to move from a pastoral ministry of mere conservation to a decidedly missionary pastoral ministry. - EG, 6

Stewardship must  
be subordinated to  
discipleship and  
discipleship be  
missionary in its  
practice.



# Pope Francis on the Parish



- ▶ I would like to stress one thing: the parish remains valid! The parish must remain. It is a structure that we must not discard; it is the home of God's People. The problem is how the parish is organized!

# Pope Francis on the Parish

- ▶ There are parishes... who scare people off. Parishes with closed doors... But there also parishes with open doors, parishes where when someone comes to ask a question, they are told: “Come in, make yourself at home, what can we do for you?” And someone listens to them patiently, because caring for the people of God requires patience; it takes effort!

# Pope Francis on the Parish

- ▶ Managing a parish takes effort nowadays... The Lord has asked us to get a little tired, to work and not to rest... A parish is exhausting if it is well organized.



# Pope Francis on the Parish

- ▶ The renewal of the parish has to be a constant concern... It has to remain a place of creativity, a reference point, a mother, where inventiveness finds expression. When a parish does all this, it becomes a missionary disciple, a parish that goes forth.





# Conclusion

The Eight  
Fundamental  
Beliefs of  
Stewardship

# The Eight Fundamental Beliefs of Stewardship

...everything we have received is a gift from God (i.e., life, love, health, talents, family, vocation, etc.), therefore we are called to develop and share our gifts sacrificially, generously and proportionally. - Wichita

...stewardship is primarily about faith. It is an invitation by God for the faithful in each parish to grow in a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. - Wichita

# The Eight Fundamental Beliefs of Stewardship

...stewardship is a spirituality that builds a way of life, expressed not in a single action or even in a number of actions but in an entire way of life. It is a committing of one's total self to the Lord. - Wichita

...stewardship is characterized by hospitality, prayer, formation, and service. - Wichita

# The Eight Fundamental Beliefs of Stewardship

...our bishop, pastors, and parish leaders have a crucial responsibility to live stewardship and motivate the faithful to follow their lead in order for stewardship to be a spirituality that builds a way of life. - Wichita

...stewardship should be integrated into all aspects of parish and diocesan mission and ministry. - Wichita

# The Eight Fundamental Beliefs of Stewardship

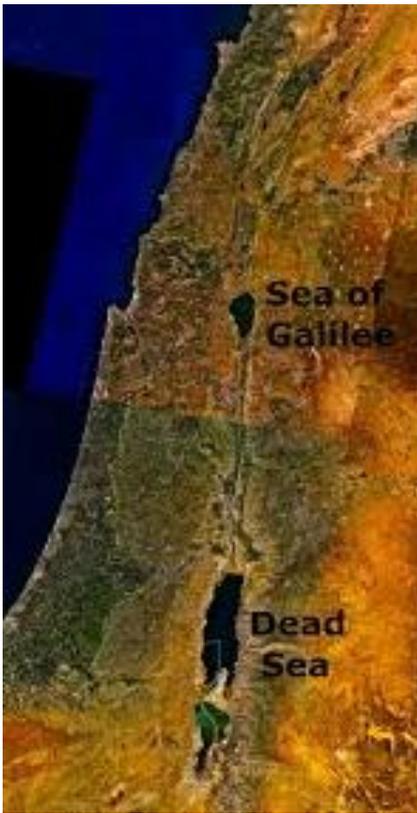


...the universal Church, including parish and diocesan missions, should be supported primarily by the generous, sacrificial, and proportionate sharing of time, talent, and treasure of parishioners to their parish.



...we are called in scripture to return to God the first of our fruits, through our tithe.

# Conclusion



- ▶ The Sea of Galilee or the Dead Sea