September XX, 2024

Stewardship Awareness Sunday: Pastor Letter Draft #1

<<DATE>>

<<ADDRESSEE>>

<<ADDRESS LINE 1>>

<<CITY>>, <<STATE>>, <<ZIP>>

Dear <<SALUTATION>>,

*“If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.”* Mark 9:35

It sounds counterintuitive, doesn’t it? Jesus tells us that in order to be a good leader, we must first be good servants of those with whom we are living and working.

*<<Stewardship Highlights At Our Parish>>*

As we approach this year’s Stewardship Awareness Sunday, we recommit to recognizing that every good thing we have comes from God. In this relationship, we must remember these three things:

* **We are God’s children.** When we see others as His children - and our brothers and sisters - we become more Christ-centered.
* **When we receive the Eucharist, we join Jesus in His passion, death and resurrection.** The night before He died, Jesus, alone and afraid, prayed that God’s will be done - and he did it anyway.
* **Our lives are a gift.** What are you doing with your gifts? Who are you becoming?

Living as a Christian is not just an “ethical” choice that we make. It is the fruit of an encounter with a person - Jesus Christ. In the Bible, people who meet Jesus are changed. The same can be true for us today. How can you be transformed by your relationship with Jesus? Here are a few ideas:

* **Pray.** Keep a gratitude journal or a post-it note of all the things you’re thankful for.
* **Participate.** You have spiritual gifts given to you by the Holy Spirit. Use these gifts to live the life God intended for you.
* **Give.** Think about what you value most. Is it your time? Your skills? Your money? Make this the first thing you give.

Gratefully,

<<PASTOR NAME>>

<<PARISH NAME>>

PS: During this time of stewardship renewal, how is Jesus calling you?