



Stewardship Alive!



January 2019

Stewardship: Spiritual Gifts Do Change

Hello Friend,

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but the same Lord, the same God who inspires them in every one." (1 Cor 12: 4-6) We all have been given spiritual gifts. We are called to use them to serve Jesus, His Church, His people and His world.

However, our spiritual gifts do not stay constant throughout our life. As we pass from childhood to adolescence to adulthood our gifts change according to our age, where we are called and according to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Sometimes we know our gifts. Sometimes we do not. At some points in our life we may use one gift and at other points we may use other gifts.

The more we use our spiritual gifts, the greater the benefit to Jesus, to others and to us. Conversely, when we bury our talents, nothing good comes from it. Others lose and so do we. When we use our spiritual gifts we reflect Jesus' light, love and mercy. When we don't, fear and pride set in.

If you are working in a parish ministry and you no longer feel the same love and joy as you did when you started, but rather you feel anger, irritability or dryness, this is a sign that it is time to move on. The Holy Spirit is calling you to use another gift for another purpose.

Let's apply this to a larger scale. Parish ministries are made up of individuals. If our individual spiritual gifts are changing/evolving, then our parish ministries are probably changing/evolving. Maybe this is a time to "sunset" some of ministries that are no longer bearing good fruit. But more importantly, maybe this is an opportunity to develop new ministries and nurture new spiritual gifts within our parish.



Whether individually or at the parish level, be open to how God is calling you to build His kingdom and trust He is putting you in the right spot at the right time. Pray for the guidance to continue to develop and nurture your spiritual gifts.

Jane Guenther, Director of the **Catholic Renewal Center**, is an excellent resource to help people identify their spiritual gifts. Contact Jane to schedule a Spiritual Gifts Inventory workshop at your parish.

The Holy Spirit dwells in all of us! Welcome all the spiritual gifts we are given and expect great things to happen when we use them for the Glory of God!

Our opening prayer is from **Fr. Paul Rothschild**, pastor **St. John Paul II** (Affton, MO).

*Heavenly Father, we thank you for gathering us together
and calling us to serve as Your disciples.
You have charged us through Your Son, Jesus, with the great mission
of evangelizing and witnessing your love to the world.
Send Your Holy Spirit to guide us as we discern
our will for our spiritual renewal of our parish.
Give us strength, courage and clear vision as we use our gifts to serve you.
We entrust our parish family to the care of Mary, our mother,
and ask for her intercession and guidance as we strive to bear witness
to the Gospel and build an amazing parish. Amen.*

Children's Stewardship (Best Practice)

Mary, Queen of Peace grade school in **Webster Groves, MO** is celebrating their 10th anniversary of children's stewardship formation.

Each grade level (K-8th grade) has a different stewardship theme. The school year starts with an all-school Mass, has three Stewardship Activity Days throughout the year and ends with an all-school Stewardship Mass and Rally.

Mike Nieman (principal) and **Caroline McCabe** (vice-principal) have graciously extended an invitation to attend the Stewardship Activity Days and Stewardship Mass and Rally to anyone who is interested:

- Friday, 1/18/19 Stewardship Activity Day 9:15 - 11:15 am
- Friday, 4/5/19 Stewardship Activity Day 9:15 - 11:15 am
- Wednesday, 5/1/19 Stewardship Mass & Rally 9:15 - 11:15 am

Every parish that has a grade school should send at least one representative to experience this. It is truly amazing!

Please [contact me](#) to reserve your attendance.
Please do not contact the school directly.

2018 Annual Parish Stewardship Survey

- Please take five minutes to complete and return the survey to [me](#) by March 4.
- [Click here](#) for the link to the Annual Parish Stewardship Survey

1st Quarter 2019 Stewardship Bulletin Reflections and Prayers of the Faithful

Many parishes include in their weekly bulletin as part of their "Stewardship Update". Send [me](#) a note if you would like them sent directly to you each quarter.



- [Click here](#) for the 1st Quarter Stewardship Bulletin Reflections
- [Click here](#) for the 1st Quarter Stewardship Prayers of the Faithful

2019 Annual Stewardship Parish Plan

- All parishes are encouraged to develop an annual parish stewardship plan.
- [Click here](#) for an example.

2019 Stewardship Educational Opportunities

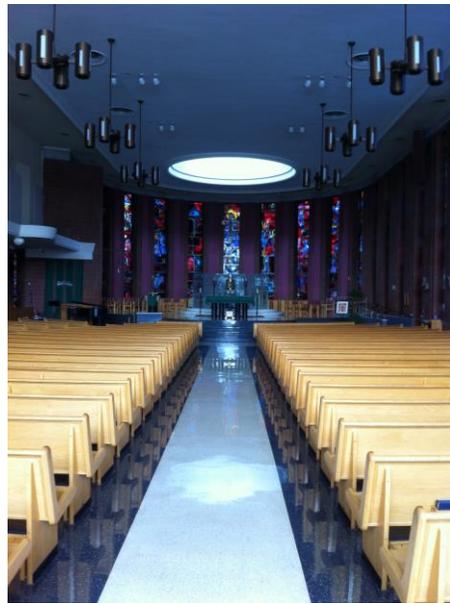
- **Msgr. McGread Stewardship Conference:** 2/20 – 2/21 at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita, KS. [Click here](#) for more information.
- **Liturgical Publications, Inc. "Everyday Stewardship"** – presented by nationally known Catholic presenter and author, **Tracy Welliver**. Regional sessions will be held at locations throughout the Archdiocese of St. Louis on 3/19 evening, 3/20 afternoon and evening and 3/21 morning. More information to follow.
- **Region IX Stewardship Conference:** 4/11 – 4/12 at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita, KS. More information to follow.

Roman Catholic Foundation – Planned Giving

- A typical planned gift is 200–300 times the size of a donor's largest annual gift!
- Many donors want to leave a legacy gift and need only to be asked.
- The Roman Catholic Foundation is here to educate your donors about planned giving and help you ask.
- Learn more at rcfstl.org/catholic-organizations

Stewardship in Action

- **St. Francis of Assisi (Oakville)** developed a **Parish Ministry Leader Manual** covering code of conduct, meeting prayers, ministry leadership changes, supply order process, alcohol guidelines, cash control policies, communications, Protecting God's Children, first aid/emergency procedures and parish office contacts.
- **St. Joseph (Manchester)** developed a **Stewardship Committee Charter** for new members outlining parish mission, key areas of responsibility, member commitment and meeting schedules. [Click here](#) to view.
- **St. Richard** developed a new **Mission Statement** to provide new direction for the parish. It's based on the Prayer of St. Richard (Know, Love, Follow Him). All parish ministries are now organized under Know, Follow, Love Him. The weekly bulletin is also organized under Know, Follow, Love Him. [Click here](#) to view the bulletin.



Monthly Stewardship Webinars

- The **February** webinar is "**Bring Faith to Life Through Stewardship of Time and Talent**" by **Leisa Anslinger** (Archdiocese of Cincinnati, OH) on Tuesday, **February 12**. [Click here](#) to register for the 1:00 pm session.

- The **March** webinar is "**The Impact of Church Offertory**" by **Joanie Lewis** (Our Sunday Visitor) on Tuesday, **March 12**. [Click here](#) to register for the 1:00 pm session.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** The Registration site for Stewardship seminars has changed. A password is now required when registering. The password is: **Stewardship**

Stewardship Thoughts

- People who say "money can't buy happiness" haven't given enough of it away. **Joe Polish**
- For those open to His grace, the experience of "hitting rock bottom" can be used by God to clarify our vision of reality. Through it God can simultaneously tear down and build up. **Carrie Gress**
- Feed your faith and fear will starve to death. **Matthew Kelly**
- The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; prudent are all who practice it. **Psalms 111:10**
- Ultimate hope is accepting what is beyond our control and believing that God will use the circumstances of our lives to help us grow in holiness. **Fr. J. Michael Sparough**
- It is good not to do evil, but it's also evil not to do good. If we don't oppose evil, we fuel it in a tacit way. **Pope Francis**

Thank You

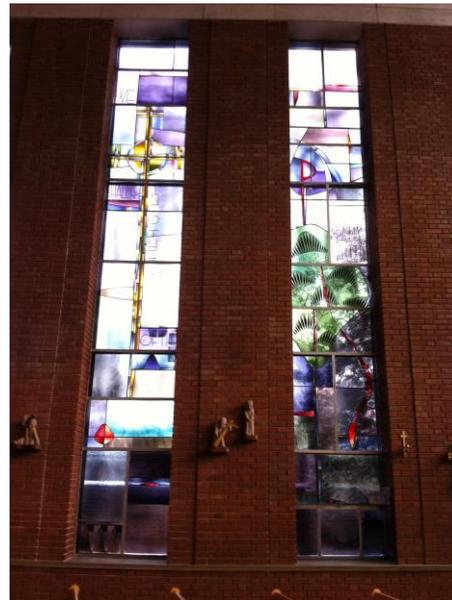
- **Fr. Phil Krill**, pastor **St. Richard**, for the 12/4 stewardship meeting.
- **Deacon Jim Sigillito**, **St. Anselm**, for the invitation to speak at the 12/6 Men's Prayer Breakfast.
- **Fr. Tom Pastorius**, pastor **St. Joseph (Manchester)** for the invitation to speak at all Masses on 12/8 and 12/9 and the 12/10 parish stewardship meeting.
- **Vice-Principal Caroline McCabe** and **Principal Mike Nieman**, **Mary, Queen of Peace** grade school, for the 12/13 children's stewardship meeting.

Inspiration Gallery

This month's pictures are from **St. Peter** in **Kirkwood, MO**. The parish was founded in 1832. **Msgr. John Costello** is the pastor.

Odds and Ends

- [Click here](#) for **The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network**.
- Listen to **Catholic Radio** on **AM 1080** or **1460** and **FM 96.7**. (**Elizabeth Westhoff** and I co-host the "Tuesday Morning Show" every week from 10:30 – 11:00 am).
- [Click here](#) to check out the **St. Louis Review** for all your Catholic news.
- Stewardship is on Twitter! My address is [@dbaranowskiSTL](#).



Jokes

- Did you hear about all the drama at the convent? It's nun of your business.
- After Mass, the pastor said to one of the parishioners, "Sir, you need to join the army of the Lord." The man replied, "But Father, I already have!" The pastor responded, "How come I only see you on Christmas and Easter?" The man said, "I'm in the secret service."
- The Sunday school teacher asked the children if they knew why it's important to be quiet in church? Annie replied, "Because people are sleeping."

The closing prayer is for **Pope Francis'** prayer intention for January – that young people, especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world. The prayer is called "**Alma Redemptoris Mater**" (Loving Mother of our Savior) and is a Marian antiphon said before bedtime from the beginning of Advent through February 1.

*Loving mother of the Redeemer, gate of heaven, star of the sea,
assist your people who have fallen yet strive to rise again.
To the wonderment of nature, you bore your Creator,
yet remained virgin after as before,
You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting,
have pity on us poor sinners. Amen.*

Peace,

Dave

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