



# Stewardship Alive!



April 2019

## Stewardship: Gift of the Present Moment

Hello Friend,

When I was working in the business world, my job required constant planning for things that were always six months to one year away. Most of the time I was thinking about the future. Unfortunately, this spilled into my personal life, always looking down the road, making plans, not really living in the here and now. I think this happens to a lot of us. I suppose this is what leads to a lot of our unhappiness. We get "locked in" to the future and when those things don't turn out as we planned, we are disappointed or frustrated. We are always looking for the next thing to make us happy. We think that God isn't listening to our prayers.

As I think about it now, my life was out of balance – too much time in the future and not enough time in the present. Too dependent on my own self-reliance and not enough trust in God and His plan for me. God still wants us to plan, but He wants us to spend more time living day to day. Living in His presence, checking in with Him throughout our daily activities. Living in our current circumstances, not waiting until we make ourselves "better" or when "I'm ready. As a matter of fact, we ask this God every day when we pray the "Our Father" – "...give us this day our daily bread..." (this means more than just food).



We weren't designed to be apart from God. We are made in His image and likeness. We were made to be in constant contact with the Holy Trinity throughout our day. A joy-filled life without God is unsustainable. We all know there are no guarantees that tomorrow will come. But do we actually believe and live our lives like every day is a gift?

This has led me to the gift of the Present Moment. In the present moment I...

- Enjoy more of the "small" wonders of life; many things that I used to take for granted.
- Maybe do nothing at all, just "be" in the presence of God, family and friends.
- Actively listen to God and others, putting their needs ahead of mine.
- See Jesus in the current moment, in the faces of others and in my interactions with others.
- Know that God loves me in my current condition.
- Am more open and flexible to God's plan for me.

When I make time for God each day, things that used to be important to me are no longer important. Things that need to get done, get done. God seems to bend time and helps me accomplish more. When you invite the Holy Spirit into your life, He shows up!

In **Sarah Young's** daily devotional "**Jesus Calling**", she says the following about the present moment. "Accept each day as it comes and find Jesus in the midst of it all. A successful day is when we stay in touch with Jesus throughout the day and don't let your "to do" list become an idol directing your life."

The opening prayer is the **Stewardship Prayer** from the **Diocese of Green Bay, WI**.

*Generous and loving God, you call us to be disciples of your Son Jesus  
and good stewards of all your many gifts.  
Open our minds and hearts to a greater awareness and  
deeper appreciation of your countless blessings.  
Transform us through the power of your Spirit  
to nurture a Stewardship way of life marked by faith-filled prayer,  
service to our neighbor and generous sharing.  
Teach us to be faithful servants of your gifts.  
With Mary's help, may we return tenfold the gifts entrusted to us.  
We pray through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.*

## 2019 Stewardship Education

- **Parish Stewardship Best Practices Presentation**
  - Parish leaders from **Assumption (O'Fallon)** will review the start-up and results of their new "Home Visit" ministry.
  - Parish leaders from **St. Richard** will review their Parish Council/Stewardship reorganization and parish ministry support.
  - Each parish will present for 40 minutes, including question and answer periods.
  - **June 12 @ Assumption (O'Fallon)** from 7:00 – 8:30 pm
  - **June 13 @ Cardinal Rigali Center** from 7:00 – 8:30 pm
  - Please contact [Dave Baranowski](#) to reserve your spot.
- **Parish Stewardship Training**
  - **July 15 @ St. Rose Philippine Duchesne** (7:00 – 8:15 pm)
  - **July 16 @ St. Cletus** (7:00 – 8:15 pm)
  - **July 17 @ Cardinal Rigali Center** (7:00 – 8:15 pm)
  - **July 18 @ St. Francis Borgia** (7:00 – 8:15 pm)
  - Contact [Dave Baranowski](#) to reserve your spot.

- **Lay Witness Speaker Training**
  - **August 19 @ All Saints, St. Peters** (7:00 – 8:15 pm)
  - **August 20 @ St. Ferdinand** (7:00 – 8:15 pm)
  - **August 21 @ Cardinal Rigali Center** (7:00 – 8:15 pm)
  - Contact [Dave Baranowski](#) to reserve your spot.
- **Stewardship Awareness Sunday is September 22**



### Everyday Stewardship – Tracy Welliver (Liturgical Publications, Inc.)

- Thank you **Mr. Tracy Welliver** for a wonderful presentation on "Everyday Stewardship" on March 19 – 21 and to all attendees and host parish sites.
- Here is a quick summary of the six stewardship parables Tracy discussed:
  - [Parables of the Talents](#) – nurture and develop our gifts to give back with increase; don't bury your talents.
  - [Parable of the Widow's Mite](#) – she gave all she had, not just from her excess. What prevents you from sacrificing?
  - [Parable of the Sower](#) – planting seeds in rich soil is similar to each of us using our gifts where God is calling us; discern how God is calling you.
  - [Parable of the Mustard Seed](#) – no gift is too small; God does big things with "small" gifts; we can do small things that make a big impact.
  - [Parable of the Pearl of Great Price](#) – what are you willing to do to gain Heaven? Sharing. Service, Sowing, Surrender.
  - [Parable of the Good Samaritan](#) – it's not just "extraordinary" talents that matter, ordinary talents are equally important; he used all his gifts – time, talent and treasure.

### Good Books

Here are some good books I've read recently:

- **"Virtuous Leadership"** by **Alexandre Havard**: examines how virtues and leadership are integrally tied together. Provides examples of virtuous leadership through modern, political, intellectual and religious leaders.
- **"His Angels at Our Side"** by **Fr. John Horgan**: explains their power in our souls and in our world.
- **"The Servant Leader"** by **Ken Blanchard** and **Phil Lodges**: insights to transform your heart, head, hands and habits into a servant leader.

### Announcements

- Stewardship of Vocations – **Kenrick-Glennon Days** is a summer camp for boys entering 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grade and helps discern their call to the priesthood.
  - **June 3 – 5** for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade
  - **June 8 – 10** for 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Sign up @ <https://www.stlvocations.org/events/kgd/>

- Discern Your Call – **The Next Chapter** is a six month program designed to help people who are approaching retirement or recently retired to discern what God is calling them to do in the next chapter of their life.
  - The program begins in October 2019.
  - [Click here](#) for more information and to register.
- Cathedral Corp. Increased Offertory Program – **Cathedral Corp.** has been suspended from the archdiocesan recommended supplier list. We will keep you posted if and when their status changes.

### Roman Catholic Foundation – Donor-Advised Funds

- **The Foundation's Catholic DAFs are aligned with our faith.**
  - Investments are screened for Catholic moral values according to USCCB guidelines.
  - Recommended grantees are reviewed to ensure they do not operate in opposition to the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- **DAFs simplify charitable giving.**
  - Donors avoid writing checks to multiple charities; the Foundation sends checks based on donors' grant recommendations.
  - By consolidating charitable giving through a DAF, donors receive just one tax receipt per year regardless of the number of charities they support, simplifying the tax process.
- **DAFs offer tax advantages.**
  - Capital gains taxes can be reduced or eliminated when a DAF is established with highly appreciated assets.
  - Donors can offset years of high income by contributing to a DAF to receive a charitable deduction.
  - DAFs are invested and grow tax-free, allowing donors to give more.
- **A Catholic DAF can help create a family legacy of giving.**
  - By naming children as successor advisors, donors can involve family in giving discussions, instilling generosity and passing on Catholic values. See how one donor describes this aspect of his DAF: <https://vimeo.com/287509214>.
  - Learn more at <https://rcfstl.org/donor-advised-funds/>

### Monthly Stewardship Webinars

- The **May** webinar is "**Embracing Youth and Young Adults**" by **Katie Herzing** (Our Sunday Visitor Parish Coach) on Tuesday, **May 14**. [Click here](#) to register for the 1:00 pm session.
- The **June** webinar is "**Mass Exodus: Why They Stop Coming and How to Get Them Back**" by **Lorene Duquin** (Catholic author and speaker) on Tuesday, **June 11**. [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

- Patience is at the core of any great relationship because it takes patience to listen and really understand the heart of another. **Matthew Kelly**
- What counts is obedience to what God desires for us and a willingness to relinquish the "good things" for the "God things". **Scripture Union USA**
- Jesus perfectly understands our humanity. He knows we need desert experiences – times of self-denial and testing – in order to arrive at mountain-top moments when we see and feel His glorious presence in our lives. **Catholic Stewardship Consultants**
- If our parishioners are not able to give a clear and simple "yes" to the invitation of the Gospel, then we must ask ourselves in conversion is really taking place. As Evangelists, we need to look beyond creating positive experiences and commit to a clear intention: to call forth true consent, instead of mere theoretical approval or sentimentality. **Andre Regnier**
- Let us remember the past with gratitude, the present with enthusiasm and the future with confidence. **St. John Paul II**
- If I am a son of God then I must dream God's dreams. **Alexandre Havard**

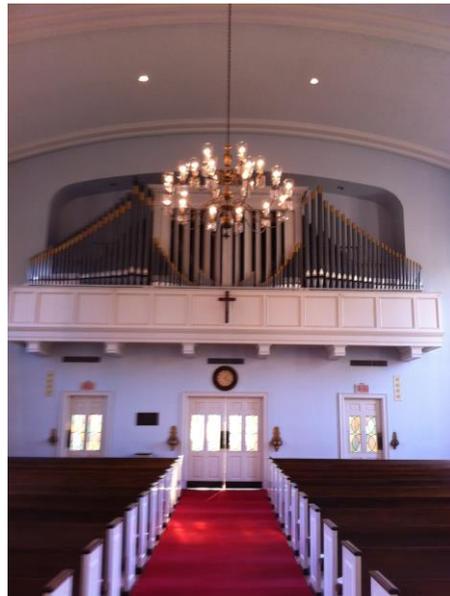
## Thank You

- **Fr. Tony Dattilo**, pastor **St. Joachim**, for the 3/5 stewardship meeting.
- **St. Francis of Assisi (Oakville)**, Second Saturday Ladies Group for the invitation to speak at the 3/9 meeting.
- **Fr. Dan Shaughnessy**, pastor **St. Joseph (Imperial)**, for the invitation to the 3/11 parish council meeting and the invitation to speak at the 3/30 Parish Ministry Leader meeting.
- **Fr. Vince Nyman**, pastor **Our Lady of the Holy Cross**, for the 3/13 team meeting.
- **Fr. Joe Kemp**, pastor **Most Sacred Heart (Eureka)**, for the 3/14 stewardship meeting.
- **Fr. Bill Kempf**, pastor **St. Justin Martyr**, for the 3/18 and 3/25 stewardship meetings.
- **Fr. Steve Robeson**, pastor **St. Ignatius Loyola**, for the 3/25 stewardship meeting.
- **Fr. Joe Wormek**, pastor **St. Francis Borgia**, for the invitation to speak at the 3/28 Parish Ministry Leader meeting. **Inspiration Gallery**

This month's pictures are from **St. Raphael the Archangel** in south St. Louis city. The parish was founded in 1950. **Fr. John Mayo** 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**.
- [Click here](#) to check out the **St. Louis Review** for all your Catholic news.
- Stewardship is on Twitter! My address is [@dbaranowskiSTL](#).



## Jokes

- Why do cows have hooves instead of feet? They lactose.
- Two friends trying to lose weight were at the gym. One friend asked, "How's it going today?" The other replied, "Not so good. I sat on the rowing machine and it sank."
- After church the mother said, "The choir was awful today." The father added, "The sermon was too long." The seven year old daughter responded, "You've got to admit it wasn't bad for only a dollar."
- What do you call a nun in a wheelchair? A holy roller.

The closing prayer is for **Pope Francis'** prayer intention for April – for doctors and their humanitarian collaborators in war torn areas, who risk their lives to save the lives of others.

*Blessed are you, Lord, God of mercy,  
who through your Son gave a marvelous example of charity  
and the great commandment of love for one another.  
Send down your blessings on these servants,  
who so generously devote themselves to helping others.  
Grant them courage when they are afraid,  
wisdom when they must make quick decisions,  
strength when they are weary, and compassion in all their work.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Peace,

Dave

OFFICE OF STEWARDSHIP AND THE ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

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