



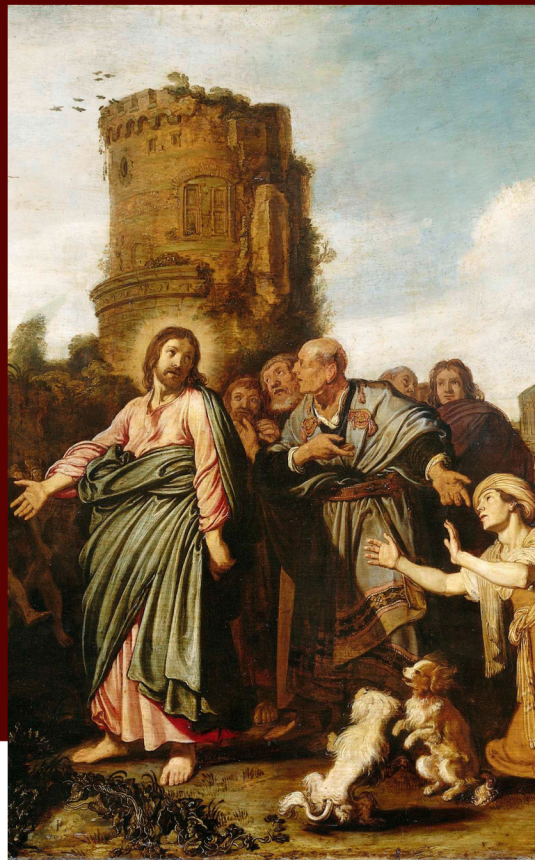
TO BE A CHRISTIAN STEWARD

Diocese of Memphis - Stewardship



“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace.”
—1 Peter 4:10

What does it mean to be a Christian steward today? It is more than managing material goods or giving of time, talent, and treasure—though these remain essential. Christian stewardship is a way of life. It is our grateful response to God's generosity, rooted in discipleship and expressed in love. A Catholic steward receives God's gifts with gratitude, nurtures them with care, shares them joyfully and justly, and returns them with increase to the Lord.

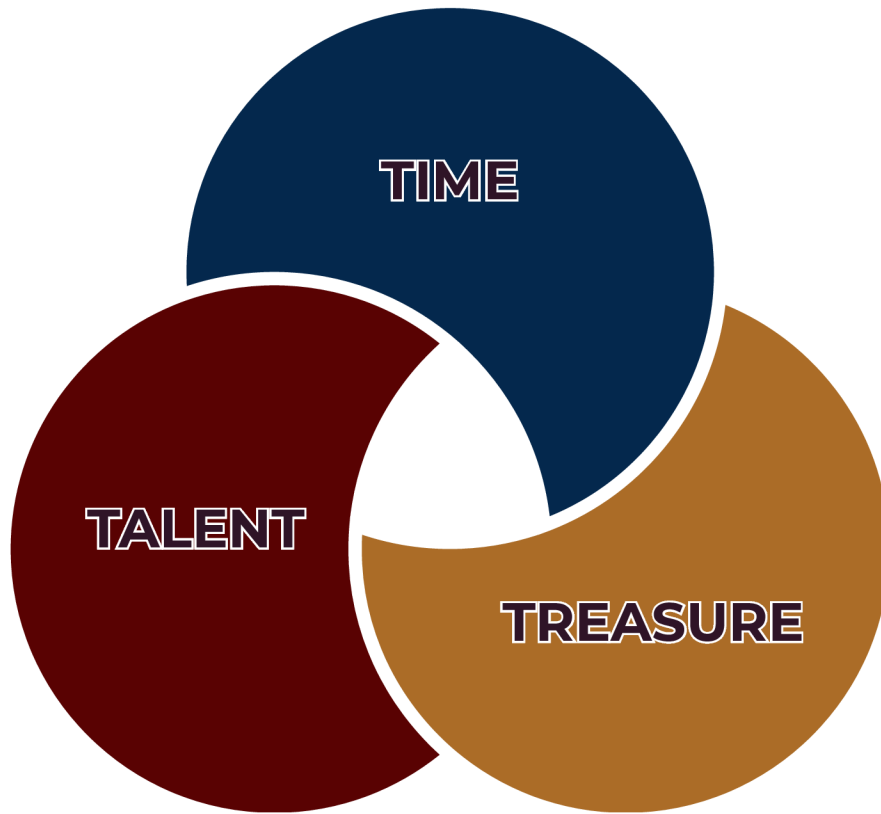


Discipleship & Stewardship

To understand stewardship, we must first understand discipleship. As followers of Jesus, we are called to imitate Him in all things. This discipleship requires an intentional choice to follow Christ daily, no matter the cost. It calls for continual conversion of heart and a willingness to live not for ourselves, but for God and others.

Stewardship flows directly from this discipleship. A Christian steward recognizes that everything—life, abilities, time, relationships, faith, and material resources—is a gift from God. In response, we offer those gifts in love and service, following Christ's example. Stewardship shapes the way we live, pray, give, learn, work, and care for one another and the world around us.





Stewards of Time, Talent, and Treasure

At the heart of this way of life are three foundational gifts:

- Time, which we devote to prayer, family, presence, and mission;
- Talent, our unique abilities and charisms, used to serve the Church and community;
- Treasure, the material blessings entrusted to us, which we return generously to support God's work.

These gifts are meant to be used intentionally, faithfully, and joyfully—not just occasionally, but as part of the fabric of our daily lives.



STEWARDS OF THE WHOLE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Modern Catholic stewardship embraces all aspects of life and discipleship, including:



Prayer – Rooting our lives in conversation with God and the Sacraments



Service – Responding to needs within the Church and in the wider community



Hospitality – Creating a spirit of welcome, inclusion, and reverence for all



Creation – Caring for the Earth as stewards of God's handiwork



Vocation – Discovering and living out our unique calling in life



Formation – Growing in faith through study, reflection, and lifelong learning



Culture – Honoring the diversity of God's people through shared celebration and witness



Citizenship – Participating in public life with Gospel values and civic responsibility

These dimensions are not optional—they are invitations to come to the table and live our faith in action.



Stewards of the Church

As stewards, we are also called to support the Church's mission of proclaiming, teaching, serving, and sanctifying. This is the responsibility of every baptized Catholic. Whether through parenting, parish leadership, volunteering, or financial support, each of us plays a vital role in building up our parishes and diocesan community.

We are the Church, each with a vital role



Obstacles to Stewardship

Living as a steward is not without challenges. We live in a culture that often promotes individualism, consumerism, and self-interest over generosity and faith. It is easy to become distracted or discouraged. But the call to stewardship remains clear. We must resist the temptation to compartmentalize our faith and instead embrace it as the guiding force of our lives.



To be a Christian steward is to live in joyful imitation of Christ. It means taking risks for the sake of love, making sacrifices for others, and trusting that God will provide. It means recognizing that we are not the owners, but caretakers of the gifts entrusted to us.

Mary, the Mother of God, stands as our model

—open, faithful, and generous in her response to God’s call. Like her, we are invited to offer our lives fully to God’s plan. Stewardship is not just about doing—it is about becoming: becoming the people God created us to be.

Let us ask the Holy Spirit to guide us, renew us, and lead us on this journey of stewardship. Let us come to the table—gratefully, generously, and with hearts ready to be poured out in love.



