



Introduction to Stewardship

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Stewardship is a way of life rooted in gratitude, recognizing that everything we have—our time, talent, treasure, and even our very lives—is a gift from God. As Catholic stewards, we are called to joyfully return these gifts in love and service to God and others.

Stewardship involves how we spend our **time**, how we use our **talents**, and how we share our **treasure** to support the mission of the Church. It also includes a life of **prayer**, ongoing **formation**, and generous **service** to those in need.

True stewardship honors our **vocation**—the unique calling God has placed in each of our lives—and respects the richness of every person's **culture** as a reflection of God's diverse and beautiful family. It embraces our responsibility as faithful citizens (**citizenship**) to promote justice and the common good. It means practicing **hospitality**, welcoming others with the love of Christ, and caring for God's **creation** as responsible stewards of our common home.

In every aspect of life, stewardship calls us to live intentionally, love abundantly, and give generously.

Best Practices

- Pray First: Begin with prayer—ask God how He is calling you to give and serve.
- Make a Plan: Intentionally commit your time, talents, and treasure in ways that honor God and support your parish or community.
- Start Small, Stay Consistent: Regular, joyful acts of stewardship—no matter how small—build a habit of faith-filled generosity.

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Home

The home is the first school of stewardship—where faith is lived, gifts are nurtured, and love is shared through daily acts of prayer, service, and generosity.



Parish

Your parish is a sacred place to live out stewardship—where you can share your time, talents, and treasure in service, worship, and community life.



Diocese of Memphis

The Diocese is a living invitation to be a steward—offering countless opportunities to pray, serve, give, and grow as disciples in our parishes, schools, and communities.



Community

The community is a field for stewardship—where we bring Christ's love into the world through acts of justice, compassion, hospitality, and faithful citizenship.

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



Stewardship : A Way of Life - Reflection Questions

Read **Stewardship: A Disciple's Response: A pastoral Letter on Stewardship** and **To Be A Christian Steward: A Summary of the U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Stewardship** which can be found at ccdom.org/stewardship

Stewardship: A Disciple's Response is a pastoral letter from the U.S. bishops that teaches stewardship as the natural expression of a mature faith. It calls every Catholic to recognize that all we have—our time, talents, and treasure—is a gift from God, entrusted to us to be used for His glory and the good of others. True stewardship flows from discipleship: it is the way we live as followers of Christ, gratefully and generously offering ourselves in service, prayer, and participation in the life of the Church. Stewardship is not a program or fundraiser—it is a lifelong way of living in relationship with God.

Inspired by Stewardship A Disciple's Response

1. "What do I own—and what has been entrusted to me?"

How does recognizing everything as a gift from God change the way I live?

2. "Am I living as a disciple first?"

Stewardship flows from discipleship. In what ways am I following Jesus with intentionality, trust, and joy?

3. "Do I give God my 'first fruits'—or my leftovers?"

How do I prioritize time, prayer, service, and giving in light of my faith?

4. "Have I asked God how He wants me to use my time, talent, and treasure?"

Do I invite the Holy Spirit into my decisions about how I spend my resources?

5. "What keeps me from being a more generous steward?"

Are there fears, habits, or distractions that prevent me from giving fully of myself?

6. "How is stewardship more than money?"

Do I see stewardship as a way of life—through hospitality, prayer, service, creation care, and vocation?

7. "What brings me joy when I give or serve?"

How might God be inviting me to go deeper in that area?

8. "How does my life reflect gratitude?"

Do others see in me a grateful heart that acknowledges God as the source of all?

Stewardship is an expression of discipleship, with the power to change how we understand and live out our lives. - USCCB