

Sample Homily #2 for the Total Stewardship Effort

The following presentation serves as an example.

“For we brought nothing into the world, just as we shall not be able to take anything out of it.”
I Timothy 6:17-19

This passage is one of many in Scripture which helps us understand and become aware of what the concept of stewardship is all about, and how, by discovering its true meaning, we will undergo a personal transformation. We are reminded that all of the “things” of this world are gifts from God, and should be used to bring us closer to God—the end for which we are created. Have you ever seen a U-Haul following a hearse?

Contrary to what many people feel or assume, stewardship is not a hidden term for fund-raising. It is a powerful concept that will change our faith life and the faith life of our parish. For stewardship is a way of life. It is based on the biblical view of God as Creator and us as His servants. We are accountable to Him for the use of our gifts of time, talent, and treasure that He gives us during our life on earth.

Stewardship means that we are not owners of all that we have on earth but we are only stewards of our time, our talent, and our treasure. Stewardship provides us with the foundation for a deepened faith, for all of us, and our parish. Stewardship begins with an awakening of the need that we have that no one can dispute, because it is universal and ever-present. It is the personal need of each one of us to return to the Lord, a portion of the gifts He has given us of time, talent, and treasure in gratitude for what He has done for us.

Stewardship is the giving of the “first fruits” of what we have received, not the portion of the gift that is left over. You will find when you decide to give to God the first portion of your time, talent, and treasure that what, at first, seemed difficult soon becomes easy for us to do. What we have left over is often more than enough for our own needs. Putting God first in our lives by practicing stewardship deepens our faith in a way that we never dreamed possible.

As you are aware, we are conducting a stewardship effort at our parish, and I hope you are giving prayerful consideration to how you might commit your time, talent, and your treasure to our parish. This coming week you will receive the third and final mailing of our stewardship information. And, we will ask you to consider making a covenant of stewardship. By committing yourself to be a wise and prudent steward of your time, talent, and treasure, you will enhance and enrich the quality of your personal faith, as well as the faith of this parish community.

Let us prayerfully reflect on the power of stewardship and let this spirituality transform our hearts so that we may live a life of greater fulfillment and peace.

And, let us use the opportunity we have today of listening to one of our parishioners who has found the personal value of stewardship. Today, we will be hearing from (or have heard from)* (names of parishioners). **(The Lay Witness presentation may be done either before the processional at the beginning of Mass or after Communion.)*