

Sample Homily #3 for the Total Stewardship Effort

The following presentation serves as an example.

“Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” These words of St. Paul to the Corinthians remind us that our giving ought to be planned and determined in a prayerful way... Welcome to Commitment Sunday. Our three week stewardship effort concludes in our parish today. We have all spent some time over the last several weeks reading about stewardship, studying how it changes our lives, and giving consideration to our responsibility to share our gifts with our parish.

We have heard from our fellow parishioners about what stewardship means to them, and how they live their lives based on stewardship.

Later in the Mass today, we will be presenting our stewardship gifts. The ushers will come forward and collect our Time and Talent, and Treasure commitment cards (*or -You will be asked to bring your commitment cards forward to the altar and place them in the stewardship basket*). Our parish thanks all of you for your commitment of time, talent, and treasure.

Just a reminder: If you have not brought your cards with you today, please do so next Sunday. (*Or-There are additional commitment cards in the pew for those who forgot to bring theirs today*)

Stewardship, as we have learned, is based on the spiritual principles of the Old Testament and the teachings of Jesus. We have learned that those who have adopted stewardship have seen their lives transform.

We have also learned that stewardship is a way of life. It is a way of thanking God for all His blessings by our returning a portion of the time, talent, and treasure given to us. Stewardship deepens our relationship with the Lord and brings each of us a sense of peace and joy. Jesus promises us that by practicing stewardship, we will grow spiritually. There are many references in the Bible to stewardship. In one of those, Jesus tells us, “You can be sure that whoever gives even a drink of cold water to one of the least of my followers, will certainly receive a reward” (Matthew 10:37-42). That reward also involves a growing trust in God’s divine will. Symbolically, we give a drink of cold water when we make our time, talents, and treasure available to our parish and to community. Every parishioner is called to give a drink of cold water by supporting the parish as it brings Christ’s healing touch to our faith community and to those it serves.

Our parish family is blessed with many different members, each of whom has special talents and abilities that can benefit our parish family. Today, we bring forth our gifts in God’s name. I hope that you as individuals, and we as a parish, will grow spiritually because of committing to give of our stewardship gifts.

Thank you.