



Parish Stewardship Invitation

Mark Senecal of Sacred Heart Parish in Strathmore gave the following talk at a recent parish general meeting. It is a great example of speaking about the ministry to encourage people to take on stewardship as a way of life!

Approximately three years ago Bishop Henry sent a request to each Parish in The Diocese of Calgary to form a committee to promote Stewardship. I'd like to give you a brief description of Stewardship.

Stewardship is not a ministry or a job in the church. It is a way of life... A way of life based on discipleship. The following quote is one of our mottos:

"Once one chooses to become a disciple of Jesus Christ, stewardship is not an option."

When living as Catholic Christian Stewards, we are called to see everything that we are, all of the abilities that we have, and all of our material wealth, as gifts which we have received from God. These gifts include the most basic things like the air that we breathe, the food that we eat, the homes that we live in, our occupations and natural abilities, and even the place where we gather to worship with our friends and family. In a nutshell you may have heard these things referred to as "Time, Talent and Treasure."

As Stewards, we are called to receive these gifts from God with Gratitude; rather than hoarding or burying them like the servant, which you probably remember from the parable about the talents, we are called to give back a portion of our time, talent and treasure to God through his community.

We can break this process down into four basic principles:

- Receiving God's gifts with gratitude.
- Cultivating God's gifts responsibly.
- Sharing God's gifts lovingly and in justice with others.
- Returning God's gifts with increase to the Lord.

We are called to love one another. Truly, what you are doing today by spending some of your time to come here and listen, or voice your opinion, is in fact Stewardship.

Over the last two years you may have noticed the Stewardship reflections and prayers in

the bulletin, and hopefully you have enjoyed the fellowship and hospitality of cookies and coffee after each Sunday Mass. These stewardship efforts have been an open invitation to our Parish members to each become more involved in their own way. Everyone has their own gifts to share--and if you enjoy baking, we always need more cookies! When you are baking treats for your family, you may wish to consider baking an extra dozen or so and bring them to Mass on Saturday or Sunday.

In conclusion, I encourage everyone to become involved as a Steward. If you acknowledge your time, talent and treasure as gifts from God, and if you give some portion of them back to Christ through His people, the Grace that you receive will be abundant.