



# Stewardship *-in-Action*

## The St. Mary & St. Anthony Newsletter

February, 2008  
Volume 6 Issue 2

### Time-Talent-Treasure

## WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP AND WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL IT MAKE IN MY LIFE?

**Stewardship is a way of life**, a practical form of spirituality. It is a conversion of heart, a disciple's response, an expression of love, part of the Christian's baptismal call; centered in the Eucharist. Simply put, stewardship is nothing more and nothing less than radical discipleship, the following of Christ no matter what the cost.

Stewardship is profoundly counter-cultural. It challenges us to think of ourselves as stewards rather than as consumers. A steward is one who takes care of someone else's property. As believers, we know that this property is God's. All our talents, the hours and days of our lifetime, and the material possessions we have come from God. Good stewards realize this. They receive God's gifts gratefully, cherish and tend them in a responsible and accountable manner, share them in justice and love with all, and return them to God with increase.

---

*"For where your  
treasure is, there  
also will your  
heart be . . .  
Much will be  
required of the  
person entrusted  
with much."  
Luke 14:32-48*

---

To follow this way of life is to enter into a daily process of conversion. It is to ask each day, the question that Archbishop Thomas Murphy, the late chairman of the Bishop's Committee on Stewardship asked himself and us: "**What do I own and what owns me?**"

This process begins with a reflection on my gifts of talent, time and treasure. All of these gifts require prayer, thoughtfulness, and being honest with myself.

**It is best to look at talent first, because it gives direction to how the other two may be shared.** In order to best know how to be grateful for my talents, I must know them. One way is to answer the questions: What am I good at doing and because I am good at it, what do I enjoy? Now that I have a sense of my talents, how will I share them?

**The second of these gifts is time.** Good questions for reflection on this gift might be: How do I spend my time? Where do I spend my time? Does how I use my time help me and/or others have a closer relationship to the Lord and others?



**The third gift is treasure.** In thinking about treasure, some questions that consistently need to be asked are: Do I really need this or do I want it? Do I trust God enough to share this gift? Am I using this gift in ways that are pleasing to God? How can I better use my treasure (material goods) in the service of the Lord and my neighbor?

Making stewardship a way of life can change your life from anxiety and stress to one of the peace that comes with trust, gratitude and dependence upon God.

**THE ST. MARY/ST. ANTHONY STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**IS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS**

“Our mission is to live every aspect of our lives as stewards and to inspire others to be committed to a life of stewardship through education and encouragement.”

*Whatever you have to give... be it time, talent, or treasure... a little or a lot, please consider becoming part of this group.*

The Next Stewardship Committee Meeting:  
 Tue. March 11 – following 6:30 Mass  
 St. Mary’s Rectory  
 We need **YOUR** input!!

“Live it”

STEWARDSHIP IS NO SIMPLE FORMULA; IT’S A WAY OF LIFE. IT’S AN UNDERSTANDING THAT EVERYTHING I HAVE IS GOD’S AND MY LIFE SHOULD SHOW THIS FACT.

### Everyday Stewardship

By Mary Ann Hohman

Stewardship is a word we often hear. We think of it in terms of time, talent, and treasure. We think of how we give of what we have, of giving the big things. Yet, do we take the time to reflect on the many opportunities for stewardship in our everyday lives?



Each day brings many opportunities for stewardship. Have you spent time in prayer for the needs of others, in praise of what God has given you, or in thanksgiving for something good that has happened to you that day? This is everyday stewardship. Have you used your talents to help out a friend or neighbor, to create something special for your family, or hold the door for someone else? This is everyday stewardship. Have you ever given your change to the person ahead of you in line at the store, paid ‘ahead’ for the next person, or put money in the

Salvation Army kettle at Christmas? This is everyday stewardship.

Stewardship doesn’t have to be showy or big. It doesn’t have to be hard or more than we are able to do. Stewardship is living our lives as disciples of Christ in all that we are and do. This is our baptismal call. By living as a disciple of Christ, stewardship becomes a way of life, and fulfills that baptismal call.

Take a few minutes and think about the stewardship opportunities presented to you today. You will be pleasantly surprised at how easy stewardship really is.

Worth checking out:  
[www.catholic.org](http://www.catholic.org)  
[www.americancatholic.org](http://www.americancatholic.org)

Information for the newsletter may be sent to:  
 Barb Widman  
[widmanb@neo.rr.com](mailto:widmanb@neo.rr.com)  
 213 Whittlesey, Norwalk, 44857

Parish Websites:  
[www.stanthonymilan.org](http://www.stanthonymilan.org)  
[www.stmarynorwalk.org](http://www.stmarynorwalk.org)