

## THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

“Becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ leads naturally to the practice of stewardship. These linked realities, discipleship and stewardship, then make up the fabric of a Christian life in which each day is lived in an intimate, personal relationship with the Lord . . .

Following Jesus is the work of a lifetime. At every step forward, one is challenged to go further in accepting and loving God’s will. Being a disciple is not just something else to do, alongside many other things suitable for Christians; it is a total way of life and requires continuing conversion.”

*Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response,  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

“Jesus sometimes describes a disciple’s life in terms of stewardship (cf. Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 12:42-48), not because being a steward is the whole of it but because this role sheds a certain light on it. An *oikonormos* or steward is one to whom the owner of a household turns over responsibility for caring for the property, managing affairs, making resources yield as much as possible, and sharing the resources with others. The position involves trust and accountability.”

*Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response,  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

“Discipleship and stewardship can sound more complicated to us than they really are. That’s because we often emphasize the results we desire instead of the means to get there. In reality, living as a steward of the gospel is simply the natural—or should we say supernatural—response of people who have developed a deep and lasting love for Jesus. When love for Christ is at the center of our lives, we want to do the things that please him and that bring joy to our own lives because we are expressing our love for him. When not motivated by love and devotion, discipleship and stewardship become burdensome chores.”

*Serving the Master  
Rich Cleveland*

“What do I own and what owns me? This is a question that must be part of our lives...”

*Bishop Thomas J. Murphy  
Founding chairman of the Bishop’s Committee on Stewardship*

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

*Bishop John J. McRaith  
Bishops’ Committee on Stewardship*

“As members of the Church, Jesus calls us to be disciples. This has astonishing implications:

- Mature disciples make a conscious decision to follow Jesus, no matter what the cost.
- Christian disciples experience conversion—life-shaping changes of mind and heart—and commit their very selves to the Lord.

- Christian stewards respond in a particular way to the call to be a disciple. Stewardship has the power to shape and mold our understanding of our lives and the way in which we live.”

*To Be a Christian Steward,  
A Summary of the U.S. Bishops’ Pastoral Letter on  
Stewardship – National Conference of Catholic Bishops*

“What identifies a steward? Safeguarding material and human resources and using them responsibly are one answer; so is generous giving of time, talent, and treasure. But being a Christian steward means more. As Christian stewards, we receive God’s gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord.”

*To Be a Christian Steward,  
A Summary of the U.S. Bishops’ Pastoral Letter on  
Stewardship - National Conference of Catholic Bishops*

“We can define stewardship quite simply: Stewardship is an inner attitude which with faith and gratitude recognizes that everything is a gift from God and with openness of heart willingly gives a portion of those gifts to others, especially the poor, for building up the Church and making this a better world.”

*Grateful Caretakers of God’s Many Gifts  
Msgr. Joseph M. Champlin*

“Disciples who practice stewardship recognize God as the origin of life, the giver of freedom, the source of all they have and are and will be ...They know themselves to be recipients and caretakers of God’s many gifts. They are grateful for what they have received and eager to cultivate their gifts out of love for God and one another.”

*Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response,  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

“Who is a Christian steward? One who receives God’s gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord.”

*Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response,  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

“Stewardship is not about money.... It’s about something much more fundamental: how we respond to the Lord’s call to be disciples and how we live out that faithful response in our lives.”

*Stewardship  
Daniel Conway*

“If with faith we view everything as a gift from God, then a constant inner spirit of gratitude for such gifts is the natural consequence. Faith-based people logically will be grateful persons, carrying within their hearts an attitude of thankfulness and expressing that gratefulness publicly as well.”

*Grateful Caretakers of God’s Many Gifts  
Msgr. Joseph M. Champlin*

“Christian stewardship is more than the management of things; it is the refusal to let things manage us.”

*Unknown*

“Stewardship simply requires that we live responsibly with the resources, roles, and gifts God has given to us. First, we must be convinced that God has truly given us these gifts; and second, that he has designed us and our gifts to meet a need in his kingdom. Only when we recognize that we have been entrusted as stewards can we begin to responsibly fulfill this role.”

*Serving the Master*  
*Rich Cleveland*

“Our individual lives as disciples and stewards must be seen in relation to God’s larger purposes. From the outset of His covenanting, God had it in mind to make many one.”

*Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response,*  
*United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

“Gifts from God, received in faith and with gratitude, are not meant to be hoarded or kept for our own use exclusively. Instead, we need to give a portion of those blessings from above to others, especially to persons in need. In that way, we do help build up the Church and make this a better world.”

*Grateful Caretakers of God’s Many Gifts*  
*Msgr. Joseph M. Champlin*

“All the members are linked together by inner ties through grace. Each shares the same life of Christ, and every member has a gift to be used, a talent to be shared, and a part to play, in sustaining and building up this divine Church. No one is more valuable than another. If a member is healthy and contributes, the whole body benefits; if one is ill and fails to contribute, the whole body suffers.”

*Grateful Caretakers of God’s Many Gifts*  
*Msgr. Joseph M. Champlin*

“God wishes human beings to be his collaborators in the work of creation, redemption and sanctification: and such collaboration involves stewardship in its most profound sense”.

*Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response,*  
*United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

“If this celebration [the Eucharist] is to be sincere and thorough, it must lead to various works of charity and mutual help, as well as to missionary activity and to different forms of Christian witness”.

*Presbyterorum Ordinis, no. 6*

“Father, all-powerful and every-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give your thanks. All things are of your making, all times and seasons obey your laws, but you chose to create man in your own image, setting him over the whole world in all its wonder. You made man the steward of creation, to praise you day by day for the marvels of your wisdom and power, through Jesus Christ our Lord”.

*Preface, Sundays in Ordinary Time V*  
*The Roman Missal*