

What return shall I  
make to the Lord

for all the good He  
has done for me?

- Psalm 116

## Stewardship at St. Walter Parish

This week we conclude this month's reflection on Stewardship as we make our commitment to live as stewards. The theme for this renewal was chosen from Psalm 116: "What return shall I make to the Lord for all the good He has done for me?"

Our reflections have taken place over four weeks, and each week we were given a special message to reflect on. The first week of October was Respect Life Sunday and the message was Life itself is God's gift — to be protected and supported in all its stages from the womb to the tomb. We are merely stewards, or guardians, of what God provides.

The second Sunday focused on a spirituality of gratitude as being the foundation of stewardship. We need to have eyes attuned to blessing and hearts prepared for grace to be aware of the goodness God gives each day. The attitude of gratitude leads to greater human joy. But we also need to be aware of all the good God has done for us to better respond to his call to live as Christ's disciples.

*"We make a living  
by what we get;  
we make a life by  
what we give."*

**Winston Churchill**

*"No one has ever  
become poor by  
giving."*

**Anne Frank** (1929-45), Jewish Dutch diarist during Nazi occupation

The third Sunday focused on the importance of prayer in the steward's life. In our prayer life we demonstrate our fidelity to God and our determination to be His people in good times and bad, in seasons of joy and sorrow, in times of plenty and in dry times. The consistency and persistence of prayer keeps the steward focused on the most important thing.

This last week we focus on making a commitment as a response to the call to a stewardship way of life. The commitment is made in terms of our Time, Talent, and Treasure. The verses of Psalm 116 that immediately follow the ones chosen for our theme are: "I will take the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. I will make my promise to the Lord in the presence of all His people." The most important response we can make to God for His goodness to us is to worship — to acknowledge who God is and who we are because of God, and to offer God our praise and thanksgiving. Taking up the cup of salvation by receiving Christ in the Eucharist is the basis for our commitment of Time — everything else (daily prayer, Bible reading, devotions, acts of kindness) will flow from that basic commitment to Sunday Mass.

Next we consider the ways we use our God given talents in making the world and our Church better places. There are so many ways of making our return to God through our talents in some ministry at St. Walter Parish, whether in some education and formation ministry, an outreach to the poor or through social justice, in building up parish life through the work of the core teams and task forces, or in participating in a worship ministry.

Finally, we prayerfully decide how God is asking us to share the first fruits, or the first portion, of our financial resources with the Church for the work of Christ. We give in proportion to what we have received. As Psalm 116 indicates we make this promise, this commitment, in the presence of all God's people. We are in this together, and when we all share generously and cheerfully, there is no telling how many times more God will bless us in abundance.

Thank you for your commitment to a stewardship way of life and for sharing part of what you have received from God with St. Walter Church.

- Father John Regan

## The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

Sell your possessions, and give to the poor. Get purses that don't wear out and treasure in Heaven that never runs out. Where thieves can't steal and moths can't destroy. Your treasure will be where your heart is.

**Luke 12:33-34**



**A SOUND FINANCIAL PLAN will take into account.. ETERNITY!**