

What does it mean to give the "*first fruits*" of our time & talent?

All Christians are called as disciples of Jesus to be good stewards of the Father's gifts of life – time, talent, and treasure.

RECOGNIZING GOD AS THE SOURCE OF ALL THAT WE HAVE

In reality, we do not own anything, **we are simply managers and caretakers** of the gifts and blessings given to us by our loving God. We enter and leave this world naked and dependent.

TRUSTING IN THE WISDOM OF GOD, NOT CONVENTIONAL WORLDLY WISDOM

Stewardship places God first in our lives; conventional worldly wisdom promotes a "me first" attitude. **Stewardship is about generosity and sharing;** conventional wisdom is concerned with "getting ahead."

SHOWING GRATITUDE

Gratitude is at the heart of stewardship. Our family and friends are gifts from God. So is our job which provides the food we eat, the cars we drive and the homes in which we sleep. **Our labors and efforts add value to what God puts into our hands and give Him glory while caring for our families, benefitting our neighbors, caring for nature, and bettering our world for everyone.**

Our parish is also a gift, because it nourishes us with God's Word and the Sacraments through the community of believers. **We respond in love by trusting in God and being generous in sharing his gifts with others by giving witness to our faith in Jesus Christ.**

BEING WILLING TO SACRIFICE

Our faith calls us to holiness and the word "sacrifice" literally means "to make holy." **So when we sacrifice--not only with our income, but with our time and abilities--we make holy our lives, our families, our work.** That is why we present our gifts during the Mass; we are linking the sacrifice of our lives with the sacrifice Christ made for us on the cross.

CHOOSING TO LIVE A SIMPLER LIFESTYLE

How can I simplify my life so that I can do more to build God's Kingdom? St. Elizabeth Ann Seton said: **"Live simply so that others may simply live."**

Body of Christ

*"Christ has no
body now on
earth but yours;*

*no hands or
feet but yours....*

*yours are the
eyes through
which He is to
go about doing
good;*

*yours are the
hands and feet
with which He
is to bless
people now."*

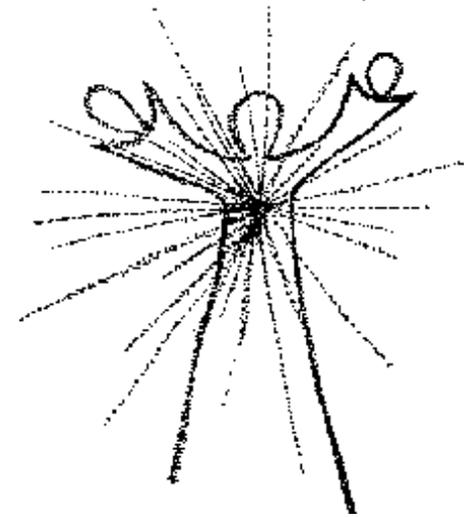
**St. Theresa of
Avila**



For Prayerful Reflection

- ◆ Do I give God the "*first fruits*" of my *time* and *talent*?
- ◆ Am I caring adequately, gladly and generously for my family?
- ◆ With Christians everywhere do I try to live as a good steward of time and talent in faithful witness to Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior?
- ◆ Am I using my **time** to apply my **talents** to gladly and generously serve the needs of my Parish?
- ◆ How can I become **more actively** involved in serving the needs of my Parish?
- ◆ Which of my *God-given talents* – how much of my *time* – should I be using to serve my **Family? Neighbour? Parish?**

Giving the "*first fruits*" of our Time and Talent



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