

## Stewardship Testimonials From Our Very Own Parishioners – Part 2

As we continue to gear up for this Fall's Stewardship Campaign and the Annual Catholic Appeal, we hear today directly from a parishioner, who will tell us what Stewardship means to him, how they live Stewardship in their involvement with the parish, and how Stewardship helps them to get closer to the Lord. Also included is an excerpt from the USCCBs document on Stewardship, "Stewardship, A Disciples Response."

The first testimonial this week is from one of the new members of the parish Pastoral Council, Keith Miner:

To me, stewardship becomes a question of how does our family give our time and talents to our home and community? For me, this question is answered by volunteering with the KoC by cooking or serving as much as possible. Recently, becoming a member of the parish council and ushering during mass has given me additional opportunities to serve the Lord. Our family motto is "How can I help?" along with saying "yes" to helping others without expecting a return. When someone is suffering, we help them with a meal, prayers, yard work, or companionship. As Catholic parents, we are given the task of leading our children to Christ. We pray that our acts of service pave that path for them.  
Thank you,  
Keith Miner

The above testimonial beautifully reveals how the Church's ideal of stewardship, outlined in the below excerpt, can be lived out in everyday life of family and community.

*"All temporal and spiritual goods are created by and come from God. That is true of everything human beings have: spiritual gifts like faith, hope, and love; talents of body and brain; cherished relationships with family and friends; material goods; the achievements of human genius and skill; the world itself. One day God will require an accounting of the use each person has made of the particular portion of these goods entrusted to him or her. Each will be measured by the standard of his or her individual vocation. Each has received a different "sum"—a unique mix of talents, opportunities, challenges, weaknesses and strengths, potential modes of service and response—on which the Master expects a return. He will judge individuals according to what they have done with what they were given.*

*Because its individual members do collectively make up the Body of Christ, that body's health and well-being are the responsibility of the members—the personal responsibility of each one of us. We all are stewards of the Church. As "to each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit" (1 Cor 12:7), so stewardship in an ecclesial setting means cherishing and fostering the gifts of all, while using one's own gifts to serve the community of faith.*

*In the Eucharist, Catholics reaffirm their participation in the New Covenant; they give thanks to God for blessings received; and they strengthen their bonds of commitment to one another as members of the covenant community Jesus forms. That is why, as Vatican II says of the Eucharist, "if this celebration 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).*

*Stewardship is a uniquely solemn trust. If Christians understand it and strive to live it to the full, they grasp the fact that they are no less than "God's co-workers" (1 Cor 3:9), with their own particular share in his creative, redemptive, and sanctifying work. In this light, stewards are fully conscious of their accountability. They neither live nor die as their own masters; rather, "if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's" (Rom 14:8).*

*Stewardship, then, is all-encompassing. It provides a place for the simplest individual gesture of kindness as well as stewardship communities working for systemic justice and peace. It is, ultimately, the pull and the power of the Gospel come alive in our times and circumstances.*

*The life of a Christian steward, lived in imitation of the life of Christ, is challenging, even difficult in many ways; but both here and hereafter it is charged with intense joy. 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."*