

# How are We Tending the Many Gifts God has Given Us?

## Stewardship as a Way of Life

The basic principle of Christian Stewardship is that everything we have is a gift from God. In gratitude for God's generosity, we dedicate a portion of these gifts—our time, talent and our treasure to furthering God's Kingdom.

If we truly believe that God gives us all that we have, gratitude is just one appropriate response. Trust is another. When we realize that God has provided for us and will continue to do so, we recognize that our real security lies in God. Our God, who has given us all, will take care of our future.

Christian stewards ~

- Reflect gratefully on their unique gifts and prayerfully decide how to use them in a way pleasing to God.
- Respond to God's love in proportion to how they have been blessed, and
- Make sacrificial gifts by using them in ways that change the lifestyle of the giver as well as the life of the recipient.



**Stewardship is what we do after we say "I Believe."**

## Stewardship of Time

In the face of the many demands made on us, how do we use the gift of time the best way possible? Stewardship of time includes our commitment to prayer and our relationship with God as well as our families and community.

Putting time for prayer first in our busy lives is a way to return the first fruits of this treasured gift to God. Making time for the people we love is also good stewardship, as is the gift of our presence at the Eucharist and at parish and community activities:

### My stewardship commitment to my spiritual life:

- Attend Mass every Sunday and Holy Days
- Spend 15 minutes each day in personal prayer
- Attend weekday Mass at least once a week
- Attend a faith formation class (Young Adults, Youth Ministry, Scripture Study, etc.)
- Schedule time for a retreat
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### My stewardship commitment to my family:

- Eat dinner together
- Plan a date night with my spouse
- Pray together as a family
- Make a phone call to an elderly parent
- Feed the homeless as a family
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### My stewardship commitment to my community:

- Participate in walk-a-thon for community
- Help with youth activities
- Sign-up for a Small Faith Group
- Help the poor at a soup kitchen
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Stewardship of Talent

Our baptism as a disciple of Christ calls us to share our gifts, including our talents. By giving our talents, we can support the mission of Christ in our parish community.

At this time, reflect on areas you have already committed to as well as those you may consider. You can sign-up or learn more about a particular ministry by calling the ministry leader listed in the parish bulletin or visiting the parish website at [www.olqa.org](http://www.olqa.org)

As a good steward of the gifts of talent God has given me, I am discerning involvement in or are involved in the following ministries (full listing in parish bulletin).

Examples:

Worship—Altar Guild, altar server, greeter, lector, Eucharistic minister, usher, choir, other.

Outreach—Meal-a-Month, Helping Hands, Life Centers of Orange County, Catholic Worker, Taller San Jose, S.O.S. (Share Ourselves), Casa Teresa, S.P.I.N. (Serving People in Need), other

Faith Formation—Children's Liturgy, Catechist, Small Faith Groups, RCIA Team, Women's Group, Marriage Enrichment, Men's Group, other.

Parish Leadership—Pastoral Council, Finance Council, Stewardship Committee, Liturgical Committee, other.

Keep this Stewardship Worksheet; then transfer your pledges of Time, Talent and Treasure to the Commitment Card.

## Stewardship of Treasure

Each year we are asked to reflect and re-evaluate our gift of treasure—is it a gift that is planned, proportionate, sacrificial and thankful? After finding your approximate household income on the chart, please consider “Taking a Step” toward the tithe of 10%, half of which (5%) we ask you to consider giving to our parish. An equal percentage should then be considered; for instance 1% to the PSA and second collections and 4% to other charities (this is a personal commitment known only to God and me.)

Through prayer, I have considered the many gifts and treasures God has given to me/our family. I/we want to return to the Lord the fruits of my/our labors in accordance with God’s commandment that we put God first in our lives.

I/we will prayerfully contribute to my/our parish community a planned, proportionate and sacrificial gift.

Weekly Pledge by % of Yearly Household Income				
	2%	3%	4%	5%
\$ 30,000	\$12	\$18	\$24	\$30
\$ 50,000	\$20	\$30	\$40	\$50
\$ 70,000	\$28	\$42	\$56	\$70
\$100,000	\$40	\$60	\$80	\$100

I/we commit to increasing my/our contribution by pledging: \$\_\_\_\_\_ weekly or \$\_\_\_\_\_ monthly.

Keep this as a reminder of your pledge—transfer your pledge of time, talent and treasure to the commitment card to be offered at Mass.

## Stewardship Covenant Prayer

*I resolve* to trust God more, believing that in His wisdom and abundance He will give me all that I need.

*I resolve* to spend more time with God, giving a few more minutes of each day to prayer, worship and spiritual reading.

*I resolve* to find more ways to share my unique skills and talents so that my special strengths will make a difference in this world.

*I resolve* to give a generous share of my treasure to God’s work here on earth, giving from the first fruits of my labor.

May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Jesus Christ in our lives. We pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus’ name.

Amen.



Put your gifts at the service of one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” - 1 Peter 4:10

## Our Lady Queen of Angels Catholic Faith Community



## 2009-10 Stewardship Renewal

## Faith, Time, Talent & Treasure