

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GIFTS

Christian stewardship is caring for and using the gifts
God has given us in a manner that He intended.

OF WHAT ARE WE STEWARDS?

OUR LIFE:

Let us commend ourselves, each other, and all our life unto Christ our God (from the Divine Services of the Church).

Each day we make choices - some good and some bad. These choices are a measure of our stewardship of the life we have been given. The question we must ask ourselves is "How do I involve Jesus Christ in the choices I make each day?"

OUR TIME:

Watch therefore for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming (Matthew 25:13).

How much time we spend on things shows what we think is important. Good stewards offer the first and best part of their time to remember God and do His work. Some people might think "Most of my time each day is spent at school (or work). Does that make me a bad steward?" A good steward will transform even the most routine daily activities into small offerings to God.

OUR BODIES, HEALTH, ETC.

Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit Who is in you, Whom you have from God, and you are not your own (1 Corinthians 6:19).

When we consider that our bodies are a gift from God, living an unhealthy life is misusing His property - it's bad stewardship! By caring for our bodies, we give glory to God and can more effectively care for others.

OUR TALENTS AND ABILITIES

And though I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and though I have all faith so that I could remove mountains but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor and though I give my body to be burned but have not love it profits me nothing (1 Cor. 13:1-3).

God gives each of us talents and abilities. Regardless of how talented we are or how proficient we are at something, if these abilities are not used to fulfill Christ's commandments to love God and our neighbor, they are worthless.

RESOURCES:

Assuredly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance but she out of her poverty put in all that she had (Mark 12:41-44)

God also gives us resources such as money, opportunities, relationships with others, etc. to help others. We must always think of the resources that have been given to us and how we are using them. In what ways do we offer these resources back to God?

Our Family Stewardship: a Sample

As a family, we have prayed about and discussed our response to and stewardship of the many gifts God has bestowed upon us.

We will be better stewards of LIFE by:

- Asking for God's help when making decisions.
- Committing to live a life connected to the Sacraments of the Church.
- Deciding to live life as a servant of God and others.
- Remembering to thank God for all that He gives us each day.

We will be better stewards of TIME by:

- Saying prayers in the morning and the evening
- Making time to attend Church services.
- Volunteering to work at a food pantry.
- Volunteering to visit shut-ins.

We will be better stewards of our BODIES (health, strength, etc.) by:

- Planning a family walk 3 evenings a week.
- Helping plan healthy lunches during the week.
- Committing to not use alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs.
- Taking an infirm person to the store or helping to clean his/her house, yard, garage, etc.

We will be better stewards of our TALENTS AND ABILITIES by:

- Volunteering to read for the aged.
- Maintaining the Church grounds.
- Teaching Church school.
- Participating in Church service projects.
- Becoming a youth group leader, camp counselor, etc..

We will be better stewards of the RESOURCES we have by:

- Committing to offering back to God a certain percentage of what I earn each week (5%, 10%, 20%, etc.)
- Joining or increasing our support of the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards as a family. See the FOS information on the OCA website at <http://www.oca.org>.

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We will be better stewards of our TALENTS AND ABILITIES by:

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We will be better stewards of the RESOURCES we have by:

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Signed:

The work of the Department of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry and the Department of Christian Education is funded through the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards (FOS).

For more information on FOS and how to support ministries like these go to http://www.oca.org/pages/min_orgs/FOS/index.htm.