



# Stewardship Awareness Sunday

## Reflection by David Baranowski

### Archdiocesan Director of Parish Stewardship & Leadership Formation

On Sunday, September 25, the Archdiocese of St. Louis will celebrate its 22<sup>nd</sup> Stewardship Awareness Sunday! This year's theme is "Stewardship is a New Beginning."

Stewardship is our invitation to deepen our prayer lives, participate more directly in the life of the Church, and exercise generosity in all aspects of our lives. An intentional response to this invitation, with a spirit of gratitude and generosity, leads us to experience ongoing renewal and a deepening of our relationship with God, reminding us that all good things come from Him. Each invitation is a new beginning, an opportunity to draw closer to Him.

**An intentional steward is rooted in prayer.** Everything we have in life is a gift from God. Recognizing these gifts each day helps us grow in faith. Thanking God daily for even the smallest blessings opens us to a new appreciation of how God is present and active in our lives, and how He wants to be in relationship with each of us individually. Being grateful for all that we have been given leads to a lifestyle of endless prayer. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

**An intentional steward is committed to joyful participation.** Everyone has been given charisms – gifts from the Holy Spirit. These charisms need to be nurtured to fulfill Christ's mission. Each of us has a responsibility to discover and develop our charisms to build God's kingdom. When living our charisms, God provides a supernatural peace and joy that is attractive to others - they want what you have! Stewardship becomes our joyful witness of Christ's love. "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?' 'Here I am,' I said, 'Send me!'" (Isaiah 6:8)

**An intentional steward is called to be generous.** The greatest gift God gave us was his son, Jesus – God's "first fruits." We are also called to give the first and best of our gifts. We are called to trust in God's providence, believing that He will provide all that we need. When we are generous with all our gifts, including our money, we show that we are putting God first in our lives, in all things. Our trust in God is the fruit of our humility – recognizing our dependence on God. Giving generously with an open heart and mind shows that we are obedient to God's will in our lives. "For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be." (Matthew 6:21)

In the beginning, we are created in God's image. At the end, we strive to live eternally with God in Heaven. Today, we must humbly open our hearts and live the life we were made for. Stewardship is this new beginning. We were made for more. We were made for God!

## FR. JOHN'S DIGITAL QUILL FOR SPIRITUAL MUSINGS AND PARISH NEWS

### *Bother Father/Open Office Hours*

Here are the upcoming times in October for Bother Father!

Tuesday, October 11, 5:00-7:00pm

Tuesday, October 18, 9-11:00am

Wednesday, October 26, 2:00-4:00pm

Please consider coming up and visiting!

### *Thank You*

Thank you to our great Picnic Committee, the many volunteers who worked the picnic, and many others who attended. It was a great weekend for our community! Please stay tuned for details on our next picnic date.

I will see you online or in Church! -Fr. John #SRAstrong



### **JustFaith Catholic Program Offered Virtually!**

*Faith and Poverty:*

*A Biblical Response Through Catholic Social Teaching*

9 Consecutive Mondays Starting October 3, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

This first program in a series of JustFaith Catholic programs explores God's call to respond to poverty in our local communities.

Participants explore these two questions:

1. What tools does my Catholic faith have to offer regarding huge questions around poverty and injustice?
2. In light of poverty and other forms of human suffering, what is the Good News of the Gospel?

This small-group program will take place on Zoom. The program consists of deep prayer experiences, input from readings and videos, speakers, and group discussion using tools for respectful dialogue. The program was created by JustFaith Ministries in partnership with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. A suggested individual cost for the program is \$35 and the purchase of one book is as little as \$6 used. This program is being sponsored by JustFaith Ministries St. Louis. For more information on the program go to [justfaith.org/faith-and-poverty-a-biblical-response-jfc/](https://justfaith.org/faith-and-poverty-a-biblical-response-jfc/). Register at [justfaith.org/faith-and-poverty-a-biblical-response-st-louis-fall-2022-small-group-catholic/](https://justfaith.org/faith-and-poverty-a-biblical-response-st-louis-fall-2022-small-group-catholic/).

If questions, please contact Barbara Favre 314.303.9941 or [Barbara.i.favre@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Barbara.i.favre@sbcglobal.net)