



BRINGING STEWARDSHIP HOME

Grace and gratitude in everyday life.

St. Hubert
Catholic Community
Chanhassen, MN
www.sthubert.org



*Christ has no body now but ours, no hands but ours
Here on this earth ours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion
Christ has no hands but ours to heal the wounded world,
no hands but ours to soothe all its suffering,
no touch but ours to bind the broken hope of the people of God
No eyes but ours to see as Christ would see,
to find the lost, to gaze with compassion;
No eyes but ours to glimpse the Holy Joy of the city of God
No feet but ours to journey with the poor,
to walk this world with mercy and justice
Ours are the steps to build a lasting peace for the children of God
- Saint Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)*

Dear Friends In Christ,

We are God's stewards here on earth.

We have been entrusted with the well being of this world and everyone in it.

That's too big a job to be handled only on Sunday.

This booklet was created to help you bring stewardship into your home, into your heart and into your life. Families, couples and individuals alike will find in it numerous ways to start and continue that process.

Our homes are sacred spaces in which we and the Holy Spirit dwell. They are among our many gifts from God. Through prayer and celebration, sharing and gratitude, we make our homes into holy places and ourselves into stewards of the grace of God.

Yours In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Michael J. Krenik". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Michael J. Krenik
Pastor



So what is stewardship really all about?

It's not just about giving money or even just about giving.

Here's an interesting exercise. Stand in front of the mirror and say "stewardship" out loud. As you do, look at the expression on your face. You'll see why no one ever shouts, "Say stewardship!" when taking pictures at family gatherings. It's very difficult to smile while saying that word. Sadly, it's far easier and more natural for us to wince or frown.

Somehow, stewardship has become a euphemism for "give us your money." We sigh heavily and reach for our check-books at the sound of the word. Even if our conditioned response is one of generosity, we're missing the whole point.

We can't be good disciples of Christ if we don't understand stewardship. The trouble with stewardship is that the more we see it as a financial obligation, the less we see it as a spiritual opportunity. When we do that, we're likely to view our personal stewardship as a measure of what we give as parishioners rather than the basis of who we are as Christians.

Stewardship is a circle – a continuum – a network – a World Wide Web of spiritual rather than digital data. Everyone is connected to everyone else, open to both giving and receiving. That's not as complex as it sounds. We tend to complicate it by thinking of it as a matter of numbers and percentages, budgets and balances. Stewardship is a very simple concept.

It is the basis of our lives as Christians. We can describe our role as God's stewards in three statements.

Everything we have comes from God.

We may have worked hard for what we have. But we did it using talents and aptitudes and opportunities that could only have come from God. Thus, we are grateful to God for the life we live, the world in which we live it and the people who live it with us. They are God's gifts to us.

As good stewards, we must share the time and talent God

gave us as well as the treasure they allow us to earn.

God gave all this to us for a reason.

God could easily have given each of us all that we need to live as totally independent beings. None of us would have to depend on anyone else for anything. Think about that for a moment. Can you imagine a more lonely, boring and meaningless existence?

Each of us has been given more than we need of some things and less than we need of others. Like countries rich in some resources but not in all, we need to establish a "balance of trade" that allows us all to share our gifts. That's why God gave them to us.

And that brings us to the third simple but essential statement of stewardship. It describes the rest of our role as God's stewards.

We must be as willing to receive the gifts of others as we are to share our own.

We all grew up being told that it's better to give than to receive. Well, Mom almost had it right. The truth is it's better to give *and* to receive. Helping meet the needs of others includes their need to give. By assuming we don't need anything from others, we are denying them the opportunity to practice their stewardship. We are also denying ourselves the profound experience of receiving the grace of God through others.

Stewardship is far more than a campaign with pledge cards and envelopes or electronic giving. It's a process of constant self-examination in which our commitment and depth of discipleship are daily considerations.

This is the way Christians are supposed to live all year long. This is giving and receiving. Grace and gratitude. Is financial stewardship part of that? Of course it is. But if you think stewardship is just about giving money or even just about giving, you're short-changing yourself - no matter how much you pledge.



At the Lord's table and the kitchen table.

*Christian stewardship
isn't just a
Sunday thing*

If we are to be good stewards of God's gifts, we need to recognize them and share them every day, everywhere we go. Home is a good place to start.

Take the time to consider these gifts God has given each of us. Then think about the ways in which you can share them. You can do this individually in a period of quiet meditation or in prayerful discussion with members of your family.

Our Lives

What are we doing with our lives? Are we making good choices? Are we asking God to guide our decisions? What would Jesus want us to do? How can we be better stewards of our lives? How can we live closer to God?

Our Time

What do we do with our time? Spending most of it each day at work or school doesn't make us bad stewards. We can find ways to include God in all of our time. How can we follow our faith and make good use of all of the time God gives us?

Our Bodies and Our Health

Yes, these are gifts from God. We show our gratitude by living a healthy life. Our bodies may not be perfect but we need to take care of them. The healthier we are, the more we can do for others. How can we take care of this gift?

Our Talents and Abilities

Whether we use them to make a living or to just pass the time, we all have these precious gifts. They were given to us to be shared. How can we use our talents and abilities, even the least of them, to show our gratitude and our faith?

Our Resources

The "supplies" we need to live: Money, friends, opportunities, family. Some are earned through the wise use of other gifts. Others are given to us out of love. How do we make these generous gifts part of our lives and our stewardship?



Bringing a big idea to little children

Kids know God loves them. Help them find ways to love back.

Young children look at the world around them, their friends, their families and their homes with an almost instinctive understanding.

Of course these are gifts from God. Who else could give us that much?

And even though they may forget at times or put off writing thank you notes for birthday presents, the idea of thanking God for all their gifts seems perfectly natural. They're just not sure how.

We receive our gifts from God on a daily basis. That's how we should thank God. Meals are a natural setting. As we thank God for our food, we can think about and talk about our other gifts as well.

What else did we receive today?

What can we do tomorrow to show God we are grateful?

How can we be good stewards of God's many gifts?

How can we share our gifts?

When Jesus fed 4,000 people with a few baskets of bread and fish, He was teaching us how to share our gifts. People were hungry but took only as much as they needed and they passed it on. God made sure there was enough to around.

Jesus tells us that when we reach out to others, sharing our gifts, it's the same as reaching out and sharing with Him. As Christians we believe that our whole lives belong to

God, including our money, time and abilities. In teaching stewardship to children we can help them:

- Understand that all we possess and enjoy has been given to us by God and this shows that God loves us.
- Understand that God invites us to participate with Him in His work as we share what He has given us.
- Experience the joy of seeing the tangible effect that our shared gifts can have in our parish, our neighborhood, our city and our world.

In the face of the steady bombardment of messages to the contrary, kids need to know that they have been blessed with gifts from God far greater than anything they see on TV or in a store. They need to know that God didn't have to give them these gifts but that He wanted to. They need to know that they have much to share even if they have no money.

The attitudes our children form now will be with them for the rest of their lives and will have a profound effect on their world. Will they have an attitude of entitlement or an attitude of gratitude?

The "Kitchen Table" exercises on page 7 of this booklet are just as valuable to kids as adults. You might be surprised at some of their answers and how quickly and how well they grasp the concept of stewardship.



You receive and you share. Kids get it.

Grace and gratitude are easy concepts for school-age children.

Children frequently surprise us with a simple and clear understanding of something we see as complicated. Stewardship is a good example. They understand that God gives us everything we have. This understanding allows them to share their gifts with gratitude and cheerfulness.

The fact that this understanding comes naturally to many of them should not lead adults to assume they'll reach it on their own. There is an extraordinary emphasis on commercialism and materialism in our society today, much of it aimed at children. We must teach our children the impor-

tance of receiving and sharing God's grace with gratitude before they are caught up in a culture that teaches them to constantly strive for more and better material possessions for themselves.

Between advertising, product placement, logo placement and all the other subtle and overt methods of product and brand promotion, our children receive more than 3,000 marketing-oriented messages per day. By the time they are 21 years old, today's kids will have been bombarded by more than 23 million advertising messages. Many of them are aimed specifically at young people and seek to convince them that "wants" are actually "needs." Without guidance, kids start measuring their themselves by their possessions and that's not good, whether they have everything or very little. It leads to a distorted and unhappy view of the world and their place in it.

Stewardship, on the other hand, is good for them. It builds self-esteem to hear that God has already blessed them with all the gifts and talents that they will need. In fact, God has given them an abundance of good things and they have enough to share.

Stewardship encourages an attitude of gratitude. As they consider the gifts God has given us, they naturally find a sense of peace and contentment.

Stewardship helps children set priorities and teaches them the difference between needs and wants.

Stewardship explains to kids why they have been given these gifts. In their role as God's stewards, they share freely, giving and receiving.

Stewardship prepares children for their life-long role in the Church. It is a way of life. It is the way Christians live every day of every year.

School-age children can understand much more than the *concept* of stewardship. They can also understand the different *kinds* of stewardship. Exploring ecological, global and local stewardship will expand their view of God's generous love and their opportunities to express their gratitude.

Teaching children about stewardship doesn't have to be difficult. When you take walks with your child, talk about the beauty of God's creation. Talk about our responsibility to take care of the earth. While grocery shopping, bring up the abundance of God's blessings, especially in our part of the world. Discuss ways we can share.

Whenever you can, point out God's many gifts. Then, listen to the response. Kids get it.



You never outgrow grace and gratitude.

*Stewardship keeps teens
in touch with God
and the Church.*

We're all acquainted with the "Three T's" of stewardship; Time, Talent and Treasure.

Well, let's add another T: Teens.

Their day is no longer than anyone else's, but teens seem to have the time to do the things that interest, entertain or empower them. Maybe they're just better at finding time than the rest of us. If stewardship is a priority in their lives, they'll find the time.

Teens are incredibly talented and enthusiastic about making a difference when they are given a nurturing atmosphere in which to do so. They are creative, energetic and passionate about what matters to them.

Teens make up a surprisingly large portion of our nation's economy. That's why marketers devote so much effort to reaching them.

They have three T's and they have the energy and enthusiasm to turn them into real Christian stewardship. Are they getting the support and encouragement they need to do it on a daily basis and make it an integral part of their lives as Christians?

On a regular basis, discuss with them where they have seen God's Spirit at work. Help them explore the joys and struggles they've had and the grace they've experienced by living and sharing as Christians.

Help them assess their gifts, looking beyond the obvious materials goods, security and money. Let them see the value and the potential in their:

- Faith hope, love and joy;
- Intelligence, talent and skills;
- Imagination, compassion and vision.

Just as each of them has received gifts from the grace of God, each of them has a calling. They answer that by sharing their gifts to make a difference in people's lives.

Through Christian stewardship, they become partners with God, respecting human life and dignity, protecting the world we've been given and making the most of themselves as members of our global, local and faith communities.



It's better to give and to receive.

*Stewardship of our gifts
means thanking God by
sharing them.*

God has blessed each of us with precious gifts. We've been given talents and abilities to do things great and small. We've been given experience, energy and enthusiasm to use for the benefit of others. We've been given the time in which to do this. Making good use of our gifts is how we thank God for them. All of us profess our faith. Stewardship of our gifts is how we *live* it.

Your gifts are the most valuable resource of our faith community. They give us the means to meet needs, seize opportunities and touch lives that no amount of money could equal.

Many of us feel our gifts are of little significance or no real use to the parish. Some of us are too modest to call them *gifts*. It is important for us to realize that every person has gifts of one kind or another and that these gifts, given by God, have value. It is also important to understand that these are not *our* gifts; they are God's gifts and we are expected to share them. After all, that is why

we've been given them.

How do we make wise use of these gifts? The first step is to recognize them. What is it that you do for a living? What are skills and talents necessary for your job? What jobs have you had in the past? What are your interests and hobbies? What have you always wanted to try?

Our parish has an incredibly diverse array of life and cultural experiences and people skills, educational background, and community connections. It also has hundreds of ways to put your life experience, interests, energy and enthusiasm to work in the service of the Church and the community.

Peter tells us, "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gifts each of you has received." (1Peter 4:10)

Think of it as your thank you note to God.

Here are some of the ways to give and receive at St. Hubert:

Adult Faith Formation
Baptism Ministry
BeFriends
Blankets For Life
Children's Faith Formation
Community Caring for Life
Community Life
Eucharistic Adoration
Families Moving Forward
Feed My Starving Children
Harvest Festival
Homebound Visitation

Information Center
Job Transition Support
Justice Commission
Liturgical Ministry
Liturgical Music Ministry
Children's Liturgy
Loaves & Fishes
Marriage Ministry
Meals On Wheels
Military Prayer Board
Moms In Touch
Parish Ambassadors

Pastoral Care Commission
Prayer Chain
Prayer Shawls
Respect For Life
St. Bernard's Partnership
Funeral Ministry
Stewardship Commission
Sunday Hospitality
Vocation Committee
Welcoming Committee
Worship Commission
Youth Faith Formation



Are we the problem or the solution?

Personal stewardship recognizes that our decisions touch the lives of many others.

Every day we make choices without considering the implications for ourselves and our world. How do we care for ourselves? Do we take time for personal rest, prayer and reflection? Have we considered how best to use our God given gifts to make a difference in the world?

We must care for ourselves. We cannot be of service to others if we are physically, mentally and spiritually exhausted. We have to take reasonable time to rest and “recharge our batteries.” There is no selfishness in that.

As Christians and as responsible world citizens, we must also make everyday choices based on more than self-interest. We must recognize that, as individuals, families and communities, we will either contribute to the problems of the world or pledge our efforts to the solutions.

It’s easy to forget that the simple choices we make every day may perpetuate substandard living or worse in another part of the world.

- Where do we shop?
- What do we buy?
- What do we drive?
- Where and what do we eat?

An act as simple as buying coffee can help perpetuate an economic system in which thousands of farmers often receive less for their crop than it cost them to produce it. On

the other hand, a thoughtful choice can have just the opposite effect, ensuring fair market prices to farmers in some of the poorest countries in the world.

We’ve all heard the question, “What would Jesus do?” We may find it hard to picture Our Lord picking out a pound of coffee beans or making any of the seemingly insignificant decision we make every day.

Perhaps a better question is, “What does Jesus want *us* to do?” We need to ask this question every time we consider choices involving problems such as these:

- The shortage of affordable housing.
- The 70,000 children in Minnesota without healthcare.
- Bullying in our schools.
- The acceptance of the mentally ill in our communities.

Each of these choices is an opportunity given to us by God. Every choice we make has implications for ourselves, for others and for our world. Making the most of these opportunities by making positive choices based on our faith is an act of stewardship. God blesses us with these opportunities every day.

How much difference can our choices really make? Anthropologist Margaret Mead, a committed Christian, said, “A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”



What in the world can we possibly do?

Global stewardship works for an end to suffering from war, disease or disaster.

In the developing world, poverty often leaves people without land, food or health. Greed, violence and disease are fed by inequity, apathy and ignorance, which recognize no boundaries. When abject poverty exists next to unimaginable wealth, it is a sin.

Stewardship is a trust from God. It includes all creation and

the human cultures built from it. This especially implies promoting just relationships among people. As God’s stewards, we commit ourselves to the relief of suffering and address its causes. Relieving suffering around the world seems too large to achieve, but there are steps you can take. We can begin planting the seeds of non-violence and reconciliation by committing to good conflict resolu-

tion in our communities and in our homes.

There are hundreds of legitimate organizations in this country that provide a wide range of assistance to suffering people around the world. Choosing from them is a daunting task. A good place to start is Catholic Relief Services (www.crs.org). CRS serves the poor in 98 countries overseas through programs in emergency relief, HIV/AIDS, health, agriculture, education, microfinance, and peace building.

Working through local offices and an extensive network of partners on five continents, CRS aids the poor by first providing direct assistance where needed, then encouraging people to help with their own development. Together, these

approaches foster secure, productive, just communities that enable people to realize their potential.

There are many other worthwhile organizations offering global stewardship opportunities in unique and specialized ways.

Feed My Starving Children (www.fmsc.org) is based in the Twin Cities and has a facility in Chanhassen. Volunteers, including many from St. Hubert, pack nutritious meals made up of rice, soy, vitamins and dehydrated vegetables, and FMSC partners with relief organizations worldwide to distribute these meals to starving children. Meals packed here by our parishioners are saving lives in Haiti, Tanzania, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Ukraine.



More than just paying the bills.

Financial stewardship honors the past, supports the present and builds the future.

The money you earn is the result of your hard work and wise decisions. How can it be considered a gift? The talent and knowledge you use to earn it are yours through the grace of God as are the opportunities for education and advancement. You may think of yourself as a "self-made" person but who gave you the "self?" We are blessed by God and among our blessings are those that enable us to make a living.

Your financial support makes it possible for St. Hubert to continue to:

- Be a force of change.
- Offer quality liturgies and several Masses.
- Provide meaningful faith formation experiences for children, youth and adults.
- Feed and clothe the poor in our community.
- Fight social injustice.
- Value diversity and outreach for all.
- Maintain a rich historical and spiritual presence in our community.

Annual Pledge

Your commitment to financially support your faith community helps parish leadership plan responsibly and maximize our opportunities. Prayerfully consider your commitment, knowing that if, if necessary, you can always change it. Automatic withdrawal from a checking account or credit

card is an affordable and efficient way to make your gift. It's easy for you and it gives you the freedom to change your pledge amount at any time. It also helps give the parish a steady flow of revenue. If you choose, you may still place your envelope in the collection basket as a sign of your offering to God.

Debt Reduction

Meeting the growing spiritual needs of our rapidly growing community has required us to grow along with it, sooner than anticipated. Your support of our Debt Reduction Campaign, along with that of your fellow parishioners, will put us in a better position to meet the needs of the future.

Stock Gifts

This is a great way to support our faith community. You can deduct the full current market value of the stock on your tax return and avoid paying capital gains tax. If your portfolio has incurred losses, you can use those losses to reduce your regular income. Please consult a tax professional about this possibility.

Planned Gifts

For many individuals and families, utilizing planned giving is good stewardship of financial resources. Leaving a gift through a will, a charitable remainder trust, a gift annuity or

by designating St. Hubert as a life insurance beneficiary are just a few of the ways you can plan now to make a difference in the future.

Tribute gifts honor an individual or memorialize an occasion and support the mission of the parish. There are people and events that are of particular significance to each of us. Your gift can be a living memorial.



God entrusted the earth to our care.

The Church is clear on the proper dominion and stewardship of Creation. This wisdom is made known to us through sacred Scripture, the living Tradition of the Church, the message of Creation, and the voice of conscience enlightened by God's law.

The Catholic approach to environmental justice is based on the two commandments of Jesus Christ: to love God above all things and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Love of God requires respect for God's gifts and God's will for Creation. Love of neighbor requires justice, which prohibits the selfish destruction of the environment without regard for those in need today or for the needs of future generations.

The Catholic attitude toward nature, in a word, is stewardship. Stewardship is the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. From the first pages of the Bible, we are instructed to "cultivate and care for" God's Creation (Genesis 2:15).

Being good stewards of God's Creation requires:

1. A God-centered and sacramental view of the Universe.
2. A consistent respect for human life, which extends to respect for all Creation.
3. A worldview affirming the ethical significance of global interdependence and the global common good.
4. An ethics of solidarity promoting cooperation and a just structure of sharing in the world community.
5. An understanding of the universal purpose of created things, which requires equitable use of resources.
6. An option for the poor giving passion to the quest for an equitable and sustainable world.
7. A conception of authentic development, which

Individual Retirement Accounts now offer those over age 70½ a way to make a gift directly to St. Hubert. Through the Pension Protection Act of 2006, Congress has made it possible to make tax-free charitable gifts from your IRA that will never be subject to income or estate tax.

For more on stock gifts and planned giving, please contact Mary Overby in the Parish Office.

We have only one home and stewardship of the earth is just good housekeeping.

offers a direction for progress that respects human dignity and the limits of material growth.

In February 2007, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) urged members of Congress to address the moral and environmental dimensions of global climate change in the wake of a major international scientific report that cites human activity as the likely cause of rising temperatures around the world.

Here are some resources you may find useful:

Global Warming Action Team

This Archdiocesan team will be the "leading edge" of a coordinated and strategic Catholic effort to measurably reduce the carbon that is emitted in the metro area and in the state. Many organizations, faith communities, and individuals have already started this work. The Global Warming Action Team brings two unique assets to the table: the moral motivation of the Catholic faith, and the capacity for broad-based grassroots action through Catholic parishes.

www.osjspm.org/globalwarming

Sharing Environmental Education Knowledge

SEEK is a program of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency that works as a clearinghouse for all types of environmental education resources.

www.seek.state.mn.us

Within our parish community, we can work together to make St. Hubert more "green" through energy conservation and resource management.



Living our faith... right now, right here.

*Local stewardship seeks
the common good as
defined by our faith.*

Problems that seem to be the responsibility of government or charitable organizations are the responsibilities of practicing Christians. It is the will and voice of concerned people that will encourage and direct government. It is the commitment and action of dedicated people that energizes organizations and ministries. Here are a few examples of local stewardship of the grace of God.

Support Those in Need

A 2006 study by the Wilder Research Center estimated that on one day in October, over 20,000 people in Minnesota were homeless or precariously housed. Christian stewardship within our community involves intentional recognition, care, and response to the needs of the poor and powerless.

Blood Donation

The Minnesota Red Cross has six Blood Donation Centers throughout the region. The Red Cross also hosts 350 blood-mobile drives each month. Call 1-800-GIVELIFE. Memorial Blood Centers serves more than 30 area hospitals. Call the Memorial Blood Center at 651-332-7000.

Legislative Activity

The Minnesota legislature convenes from January through May. During this time, public policies will be shaped and

implemented. Visit the Archdiocesan Office for Social Justice Website for more information. www.osjspm.org

Parish Partnership

Our partnership with St. Bernard's parish in St. Paul is a great example of an on-going program of local stewardship. By building a relationship with fellow Catholics, we have created a program in which people from both churches have a very personal interest.

Emergency Relief

Floods, tornadoes and other natural and man-made disasters can strike anywhere at any time. Members of the St. Hubert community have consistently demonstrated a commitment to local stewardship by responding quickly and generously.

Our parishioners are practicing local stewardship through these and other organizations and programs.

- The CAP Agency/Meals on Wheels www.capagency.org
- Families Moving Forward www.familiesmovingforward.org
- Loaves & Fishes www.loavesandfishesmn.org
- Love, INC of Eastern Carver County loveincecc.org
- PROP www.propfood.org
- Urban Ventures www.urbanventures.org



To Be A Christian Steward

*A Summary of "Stewardship: A Disciple's
Response," the U.S. Bishops' Pastoral
Letter on Stewardship*

What identifies a steward? Safeguarding material and human resources and using them responsibly are one answer; so is generous giving of time, talent, and treasure. But being a Christian steward means more. As Christian stewards, we receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord.

Disciples As Stewards

Let us begin with being a disciple—a follower of our Lord Jesus Christ. As members of the Church, Jesus calls us to be

disciples. This has great implications:

- Mature disciples make a conscious decision to follow Jesus, no matter what the cost.
- Christian disciples experience conversion-life shaping changes of mind and heart—and commit their very selves to the Lord.
- Christian stewards respond in a particular way to the call to be a disciple. Stewardship has the power to shape and mold our understanding of our lives and the way in which we live.

Jesus' disciples and Christian stewards recognize God as the

origin of life, giver of freedom, and source of all things. We are grateful for the gifts we have received and are eager to use them to show our love for God and for one another. We look to the life and teaching of Jesus for guidance in living as Christian stewards.

Stewards Of Creation

The Bible contains a profound message about the stewardship of material creation: God created the world but entrusts it to human beings. Caring for and cultivating the world involves the following:

- Joyful appreciation for the God-given beauty and wonder of nature;
- Protection and preservation of the environment, which would be the stewardship of ecological concern;
- Respect for human life—shielding life from threat and assault, doing everything that can be done to enhance this gift and make life flourish; and
- Development of this world through noble human effort; physical labor, trades and professions, arts and sciences.

Stewards Of Vocation

Jesus calls us, as his disciples, to a new way of life—the Christian way of life—of which stewardship is part. But Jesus does not call us as nameless people in a faceless crowd. He calls us individually, by name. Each one of us—clergy, religious, lay person; married, single; adult, child—has a personal vocation. God intends each one of us to play a unique role in carrying out the divine plan. The challenge, then, is to understand our role—our vocation—and to respond generously to this call. Christian vocation entails the practice of stewardship. In addition, Christ calls each of us to be stewards of our personal vocations, which we receive from God.

Stewards Of The Church

Stewards of God's gifts are not passive beneficiaries. We cooperate with God in our own redemption and in the redemption of others. We are also obliged to be stewards of the Church—collaborators and cooperators in continuing the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, which is the Church's essential mission. This mission—proclaiming and teaching, serving and sanctifying—is our task. It is the personal responsibility of each one of us as stewards of the Church.

All members of the Church have their own roles to play in carrying out its mission:

- Parents, who nurture children in the light of faith;
- Parishioners, who work in concrete ways to make

their parishes true communities of faith and vibrant sources of service to the larger community;

- All Catholics, who give generous support—time, money, prayers, and personal service according to their circumstances—to parish and diocesan programs and to the universal Church.

Obstacles To Stewardship

People who want to live as Christian disciples and Christian stewards face serious obstacles. In the United States and other nations, a dominant secular culture often contradicts religious convictions about the meaning of life. This culture frequently encourages us to focus on ourselves and our pleasures. At times, we can find it far too easy to ignore spiritual realities and to deny religion a role in shaping human and social values.

As Catholics who have entered into the mainstream of American society and experienced its advantages, many of us also have been adversely influenced by this secular culture. We know what it is to struggle against selfishness and greed, and we realize that it is harder for many today to accept the challenge of being a Christian steward. It is essential, therefore, that we make a special effort to understand the true meaning of stewardship and live accordingly.

A Steward's Way

The life of a Christian steward models the life of Jesus. It is challenging and even difficult, in many respects, yet intense joy comes to those who take the risk to live as Christian stewards. Women and men who seek to live as stewards learn that "all things work for good for those who love God" (Rom 8:28).

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. As the Mother of Christ, she lived her ministry in a spirit of fidelity and service; she responded generously to the call.

We must ask: Do we also wish to be disciples of Jesus Christ and Christian stewards of our world and our Church?

Central to our human and Christian vocations, as well as to the unique vocation each one of us receives from God, is that we be good stewards of the gifts we possess. God gives us this divine—human workshop, this world and Church of ours.

The Spirit shows us the way.
Stewardship is a part of that journey.

As an expression of your commitment to the principles of Christian Stewardship, we invite all in your home to enter into a Stewardship Covenant. Make as many copies as you need of this Covenant form and post them in a conspicuous place to serve as a reminder of your commitment to our loving and generous God.



St. Hubert Catholic Community Stewardship Covenant

In gratitude for the many gifts our loving God has given to all His people;

In recognition that these gifts have been given to us to share and use wisely;

In celebration of the Grace and Gratitude that are the foundation
of our relationship with God;

This Covenant proclaims the acceptance of our role as God's stewards
in caring for God's Creation and His people.

This Covenant is a commitment to these actions of Christian stewardship:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

Signature

Date



The St. Hubert Stewardship Prayer

Heavenly Father,

You have blessed us with bountiful gifts;
all that we have, all that we are, comes from You.

In Your mercy and love, guide us always,
that we may be good stewards of these
gifts and talents as we strive to serve others.

Give us the courage to teach and promote
strong Christian values in all we say and do.

Bless us all, as we reach out in prayer and petition
for those who suffer within our global family.

Open our hearts , that we may respond generously
to the needs of the parish and community.

Strengthen us, as we work to build
Your Kingdom of love here on earth.

We pray in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Amen



St. Hubert
Catholic Community

8201 Main Street
Chanhassen, MN 55317
(952) 934-9106
www.sthubert.org