

EVERYTHING IN LIFE IS A GIFT- Pastor Letter

Everything in life is a gift. When I reflect upon the greatest blessings in my life, family, friends and faith are foremost. For what are you thankful?

Over the next several weeks you will have the opportunity to reflect upon the multitude blessings in your life. PARISH NAME will be engaging in a Stewardship Awareness Program, four-weeks of education, prayer and reflection that will, ideally, help you to become cognizant of the many blessings in your life and the Giver of these blessings.

Stewardship is based on spiritual principles from the Old Testament and the teachings and life of Jesus. Stewards are managers or caretakers of all that is entrusted to them. Good stewards give back to God in thanksgiving for the many blessings present in their lives. They recognize Jesus as the model steward, the One who listened to God's call, who completely emptied himself, the One who was taken, blessed, broken and shared.

During the next few weeks, you will be hearing more about Stewardship and what it means in terms of your personal spiritual lives. You will be asked to reflect upon the three areas of stewardship and how they are lived in your life:

- *Time*- How much time do you set aside each week in prayer and involvement in volunteer activities in our parish and in our community?
- *Talent*- How are you using your talents for the betterment of our parish and greater community?
- *Treasure*- How do you financially support our parish and other charities?

My hope is that these weeks of reflection will increase your awareness of God's glory in the everyday, will strengthen your relationship with God, will lead you to thank God for your profound abundance, and will encourage you to share of your blessings.

Please pray for our parish so that we may, individually, hear God's call and respond, "Here I am."

Sincerely,

Pastor Name