



A conversion of the heart.

As each of us grows in the life of prayer, God reveals Himself more intimately in this personal relationship, drawing us into stewardship. We see that the gifts received from God are to be shared and not buried. Here lies the heart of the steward's personal response as a disciple — to share what one has received and to share with a generous, grateful and loving heart. As stewards we remain deeply rooted in humility, recognizing that the gifts one has been given come not from self, but from God. It is a foundational belief that stewardship is a call to share God's gifts with others. This formation of each individual becomes part of the formation of the parish community. This formation is a life-long journey of conversion.

As one grows more deeply in this formation to a life of stewardship, the more deeply one loves as God loves us. Formation includes quality education, but the knowledge itself is not enough. Parish Schools of Religion, youth ministry programs, prayer groups, parish missions, youth & adult retreats, and adult education offerings are excellent places for faith formation to begin and continue. Additionally, every parish organization has a role to play in nurturing the faith formation of the members. It is in this sincere collective parish effort, that faith formation thrives through the grace of God. The meaning of faithful stewardship and how to live this way of life is at the core of the disciple's response to the gift of faith we freely receive from our loving God.

Reflections:

- Lord, I love you and want to spend more time with you each day. What can I do more than my hour at Mass each week?
- Are my children spending more time in faith formation with God than I am ?
- Do I make faith formation a priority in my life and my family's lives?

Formation in Action:

- Plan on attending an adult education program / mission / retreat this year.
- Spend an hour on the Formed web site reading a Lenten reflection and reviewing faith formation programs. See back of page for details on accessing Formed.org.
- Do an act of kindness for someone outside your usual circle of friends / co-workers / neighbors / classmates this week.