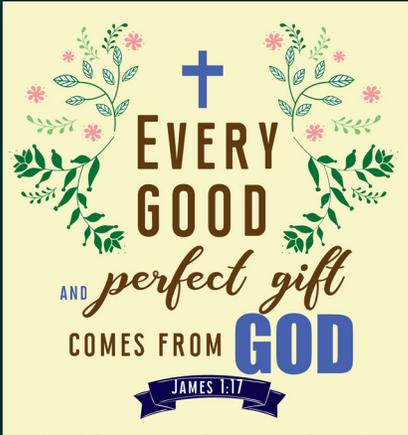


Notre Dame des Victoires Parish

566 Bush Street ● San Francisco, CA 94108 ● Phone: (415) 397-0113



Stewardship

is the grateful response of a Christian disciple who recognizes, receives and cultivates God's gifts and generously shares these gifts in love of God and neighbor.

Live Each Day as a Steward!

By God's grace, we are given the high honor of being his stewards. In Genesis, God has given us a special role in his creation. God has charged us with being the caretakers of all that he has created.



Steward's Identity

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS!

Scripture Reading: *"...for a wide door for effective work has opened to me..."*
(1 CORINTHIANS 16:9)

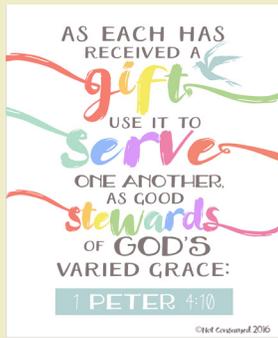
Saint Paul, like us, had things he wanted to do and people he wanted to see. He told the Corinthians he wanted to come to visit them but that he would have to stay awhile in Ephesus "because a wide door for effective work [had] opened to [him]. As a true disciple of Christ, Paul knew about self-sacrifice. He had suffered much for the sake of the Gospel and even now, instead of pleasing himself, he was not going to let this opportunity for ministry pass by.

These few words offer much food for thought. Is this the time for you, like Paul, to put your own desires aside in order to be able to give donations to missionaries, to your church colleges, and to the ministry of your own church? Everywhere you look, can't you see that "a wide door for effective work has opened...?"

Perhaps you've prepared for a career in a financially rewarding field. Then you sense the call of God, calling you into fulltime Christian ministry. Not exactly the lucrative career you had in mind. This is foolish, others say; you can serve God anywhere, they tell you, and that is true, but you know that "a wide door for effective work has opened..." To serve God faithfully requires that we be ready and willing to set aside our own wants and desires, probably temporarily, and walk through that great door of opportunity.

Question for reflection: How can I prepare myself for the opportunities of service that God will place before me?

Prayer: *Lord, open my heart for opportunities to serve. Amen.*



Steward's Purpose

GOD OWNS. WE MANAGE.

Scripture Reading: “*Mine is the silver and mine the gold, says the Lord of hosts*”
(HAGGAI 2:8)

As the legal owners of so many things, it is sometimes difficult for us to acknowledge that God is the real and ultimate owner of everything. He is the owner; we are merely managers or caretakers of God's property. King David wrote, “The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein” (Psalm 24:1). God is the landlord. We are the tenants. We possess, we occupy, we use, we manage—but we don't own.

Scripture tells us, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (*Genesis 1:1*). Out of nothing, God created life. The world and all who live in it are gifts from God. He gives us the ability to produce wealth in order that we may sustain our lives (*Deuteronomy 8:18*). He gives us strength, wisdom, knowledge, and eternal life through his only Son.

God made man to “have dominion over...all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth” (*Genesis 1:26*). God puts us in charge of his kingdom, making us, his stewards, responsible for all the gifts he has entrusted to us.

Question for reflection: How can I be a better steward of God's creation?

Prayer: *Dear Jesus, grant me wisdom so I can be a faithful steward of your creation. In your precious name I pray. Amen.*



Steward's Lifestyle

LIVING WITH CONVICTION

Scripture Reading: “*Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.*” COLOSSIANS 2:6

Perhaps at one time we had little more than passing interest in spiritual things. Then, as the Holy Spirit worked in us through God's Holy Word and Sacraments, our commitment deepened. An intimate relationship with Jesus developed and was manifested by the use of our time, talents, and money for his purposes. We willingly started devoting time daily to the reading of God's Word as well as spending time with him in prayer. We found ourselves eager to attend Mass weekly and Bible studies so we could worship the Lord and receive his nourishment. A desire to commit a generous portion of our money to the Lord through giving to our parish and to others was born in us. Our lives and blessings were turned over to God to be used in his service.

Our relationship with the Lord is God's gift to us. God calls and chooses us, and he gives us faith to follow him. May God bless and deepen our conviction for him.

Question for reflection: How can I show my conviction for the Lord?

Prayer: *Dear Lord, thank you for loving me. Place within me passion and boldness to share your love with others. In Jesus' precious name I pray. Amen.*