

## STEWARDSHIP TALK

March 3-4, 2011 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

TAKE THESE WORDS OF MINE INTO YOUR HEART...BIND THEM ON YOUR WRIST AND FOREHEAD. I feel very challenged by these words in the first reading. Why?

Jesus goes on to say...EVERYONE WHO LISTENS TO THE WORDS OF MINE AND ACTS ON THEM WILL BE WISE.....

Listening to the words of Jesus is certainly very important, but **acting** upon them is to really know and experience the true love of God.

Stewardship is a ministry we must acknowledge if we want to be active Christians.

Ps 116 says:

**++How shall I make a return to the Lord for all the good He has done for me?**

Two strong influences in my life taught me about the gift of Stewardship. First it was my parents. They visibly lived and reflected their relationship with God through the times they helped out at Church, through their sharing of gifts, talents, time, energy, and sacrifices. We 7 children saw them give and we learned to give, too. We would help with projects at school or in church, like cleaning, choir, serving, or errands for the teachers and priests. Being a part of the Church was special. It was our extended family. My parents did not want us to just keep the faith, but to pass it on !!

Besides my parents, my husband, Jim, too influenced me with his generosity.

Jim whom many of you may know surely gave of himself to all of us, whether it was the years in RCIA, or Marriage Preparation. Jim spent personal time with many parishioners. To me he was a terrific example of Stewardship... a wonderful listener, teacher, organizer, and defender of the faith.

Stewardship sometimes seems harder when it comes to sharing what we put so much effort into getting, because it cuts into our precious time, our precious personal life, or our precious hard earned wages or possessions.

**++How shall I make a return to the Lord for all the good He has done for me?**

We are wonderfully blessed here at St. Elizabeth through the various programs provided through our school and church. The opportunity for daily Mass is definitely a gift of faith and service. We are truly blessed to even have a pastor. Thank you, Fr. Bruce.

In this Mass we are about to celebrate together, we offer gifts of bread and wine, as signs of our labor. (*They are brought up during the time of our giving.* ) Father consecrates our gifts, blesses them and we in return receive more than we could ever give, **Jesus Christ Himself !!!**

The great lesson of stewardship is that we really are not the owners of our time, talent, or treasure. We are only custodians of God's gifts in this world. We are stewards of what God has given us as we journey to eternal life to be with Him. So when we say "Lord, Lord, He will know us."

**++How shall (we) make a return to the Lord for all the good He has done for (us)?**

Let us pray about it very seriously, personally, and as a family. Place our time, talents and treasure before God. Thank Him for the gifts, opportunities, advantage we do have....and then...ask Him to bless us as a stewards for St. Elizabeth parish.

I will close with a statement from Paul to the Corinthians..  
(2 Cor. 9: 7-8) to help us reflect and discern our stewardship responsibilities.

EACH ONE SHOULD GIVE, AS HE OR SHE HAS DECIDED, NOT WITH REGRET OR OUT OF A SENSE OF DUTY; FOR GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER. AND GOD IS ABLE TO GIVE YOU MORE THAN YOU NEED FOR YOURSELVES AND MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR EVERY GOOD WORK.

**++How shall (we) make a return to the Lord for all the good He has done for (us)?**

LET US BE CHEERFUL GIVERS !!!