



## *Pastor's Corner*

### *Stewardship: A Theology of Discipleship*

The Catholic Church has a very rich theology of Stewardship. Stewardship is a way of life, the way that leads to life. It is a natural (or rather supernatural) and necessary outward expression of our Christian discipleship. It is an invitation and, indeed, a divine summons to all who want to live out the baptismal call to virtue and holiness of life. The life of the active and intentional disciple of Jesus Christ is a life of Stewardship.

Stewardship is a give-and-receive relationship with the Lord and His Church; the Lord and His Church have given us so much already, and we have willingly and graciously received what has been given to us. We, in turn, are called to give back to the Lord and His Church, and the Lord and His Church willing and graciously receive what we give back. The Giver teaches us and calls us to be givers as well.

We are reminded of the Lord's parable of the talents: one servant was given five talents, and he gave back those five talents plus five more; another servant was given two talents, and he gave back those two talents plus two more; the third servant was given one talent, but he did nothing with it, did not embrace the proper spirit of Stewardship, and all that he could offer in return was something that went totally unused.

We, too, are given many gifts. Do we use them as God would have us use them? Or do we bury them in the ground, as it were, as if we had been given nothing? A right and just sense of Stewardship would have us actually use what God has given us, that we may then give back to God an offering of our own.

When we give back to the Lord and His Church (when we embrace fully the spirit of Stewardship), it is Christ-like of us that we be grateful for what we are given and for what we give back, that we offer is in keeping with the Word of God (i.e. we are never to offer anything unworthy or evil when what God has given to us is always good), that we are compassionate in our giving, that we are generous with what have been given in sharing it with others and giving back to God, that we are prayerful about how we can give back (and, more to the point, how God is calling us to give back), that we are forgiving (for the gift of mercy and forgiveness is often the most precious gift that we can give to another when we have been wronged in any way), and that we be cheerful in our giving back to the Lord and His Church, for God loves a cheerful giver.

This 2017-2018 Stewardship Campaign now begins – our first with me as your new pastor; it is also the launch of the new timing for the Annual Catholic Appeal – an annual opportunity for us to engage in faithful Stewardship. I encourage each of us to be especially prayerful and discerning about how we can give back to the Lord and His Church this year, being mindful always of the countless gifts and blessings that God has already given to us.

*~ Fr. Lewis*