

January 4

Stewardship New Year's Resolution

A Faithful Steward's New Year's Resolution!

To be emptied of:

Pride, Envy, Jealousy, Anger, Selfishness, and Greed

To be filled with:

Humility, Charity, Faith, Hope, Patience, Peace, Joy, Surrender, and Gratitude

January 11

From Doing Stewardship to Being a Steward

Stewardship is so much more than sharing our time, talent and treasure in the Church. It's easy to give a bit of our time, or write a cheque to the Church and be done with it, thinking we have fulfilled our stewardship obligations. However this is but one way we can *do stewardship*, *being a steward* involves a deeper commitment. The real challenge for us, the baptized, is to grow in our understanding of stewardship. It is not limited to what we do on Sunday. When stewardship crosses over into our day-to-day living then we can honestly say we are *being* a good steward.

January 18

Stewardship – Guilty by Association

Many people associate stewardship with giving money, which is unfortunate because stewardship is so much more! The important question is not how much do you give? The important question is what do you do with what you keep? The problem with our culture today is that too many people are trying to *give & save* after what's left over, and there is usually very little left over. Credit card and personal loan debt in Canadian households has grown from a total of \$84.1 billion in 1982 to \$203.8 billion in 2001. Good stewards ditch debt, give first, save second, and live on what's left.

The secret to happiness does not lie in getting more but wanting less!

January 25

Stewardship & the 4 Ships

Leadership: Who is our leader? Jesus is! He gives us the perfect example of stewardship to follow.

Relationship: How are you developing your relationship with Jesus? Being a good steward of your time and spending time in prayer is the best way to develop your relationship with Him.

Discipleship: "*Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me*". (Mark 8:34) What does it mean to deny yourself? It means to live a Christ-centered life rather than a self-centered life!

Stewardship: To *receive* God's gifts gratefully, to *cultivate* and develop those gifts, to *share* them in gratitude with others, and to *return* them with increase to the Lord. This is the cycle of Christian Stewardship – **Receive – Cultivate – Share – Return.**