

Stewardship Bulletin Reflections - January 2011

January 2nd ó Epiphany

Stewardship – Faith on Fire, Hearts & Minds Transformed

Why did the men from the East bring gifts? Was it because they felt that Jesus, Mary, and Joseph needed them? Or was it because *they needed to give*? At the start of this New Year, today might be a good time to reflect on why you give to our parish, to our Archdiocese, or to other charities. It is only in finding our own *need to give* that we discover giving that is truly sacrificial and joyful. Good stewardship is the result of being grateful which thus prompts our desire to give.

Stewardship Office, The Archdiocese of Winnipeg, www.archwinnipeg.ca

January 9th ó Baptism of the Lord

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We all share in the baptismal priesthood. The 2nd Vatican Council ó *The laity derive the right and duty to the apostolate from their union with Christ the head; incorporated into Christ's Mystical Body through **Baptism** and strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit through Confirmation, they are assigned to the apostolate by the Lord Himself. They are consecrated for the royal priesthood and the holy people (cf. 1 Peter 2:4-10) not only that they may offer spiritual sacrifices in everything they do but also that they may witness to Christ throughout the world*” DECREE ON THE APOSTOLATE OF THE LAITY (3). Stewardship is rooted in our baptism. How are you using your gifts in response to your baptismal call?

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January 16th ó 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Roots – Cultivate the Virtues – Fruits The vision of stewardship in our Archdiocese is clear. It is rooted in scripture, Church teaching, and the sacraments, particularly our baptism. We grow as Christian stewards by cultivating the virtues of prayer, humility, gratitude, simplicity, generosity, responsibility, trust, patience, perseverance, and mercy in our lives. The fruits of a greater commitment to stewardship are thriving, growing, communities whose members are passionate about their baptismal call: where all are seen as gifted and chosen by God to be a light to the world.

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January 23rd ó 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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‘They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.ø (Acts 2:42) The theme for the **2011 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** takes us back to the first church in Jerusalem. We find in Acts 4 that the

church members never viewed their possessions as their own but joyfully shared everything they had with one another ó an early lesson in stewardship. It's at our roots.

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January 30th ó 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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St. Paul reminds us today that we are all chosen and called by God. All of us are called to be Christian disciples. This is our common vocation. A disciple of Jesus is one who responds to the call and lives a life in imitation of Christ. Stewardship is a part of that. It is the work of the Holy Spirit in us, which activates our gifts and makes being a disciple possible. So let us be humble and boast in the one source of all our gifts ó God.

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