

Stewardship Bulletin Reflections Summer 2011

July 3 – Sept 4, 2011

July 3

Virtues of the Disciple & Christian Steward

Prayer

Prayer is absolutely essential if we are to enjoy the fullness of life that Jesus promises us. Spending time in prayer each and every day is a conscious choice, and a question of prioritizing our time. Some people say it's difficult to find time in the day to pray. Do you know that the average Canadian spends 2 hours a day watching TV, the equivalent of one full month a year in front of the television! There's always enough time to pray.

July 10

Virtues of the Disciple & Christian Steward

Humility

Total dependence on God is the hallmark of humility and stewardship. As Christian stewards, we are filled with humility, not pride. We acknowledge that God is the only source of all that we have, are, and ever will be. However, humility does not mean we think less of ourselves. Humility simply means that we think of ourselves less. To be a Christian Disciple is to deny self and seek the will of God.

July 17

Virtues of the Disciple & Christian Steward

Trust

The Christian steward seeks to trust in God more and trust in themselves less. When we put our trust in at-risk things like our jobs, our possessions, or bank accounts, we are extremely vulnerable to anxiety and fear. Trusting explicitly in God is very freeing.

"I tell you not to worry about your life. Can worrying make you live longer?"

Matthew 6:25, 27

July 24

Virtues of the Disciple & Christian Steward

Patience

Be patient with God. God's plan for each of us is revealed only in the unraveling of our lives. The Christian disciple seeks to understand others more than to be understood. Understanding leads to love, and one fruit of love is patience. Being a disciple and steward is not easy today. Being patient with ourselves means we get back up when we fall, believing and trusting in God's never ending compassion and forgiveness.

July 31

Virtues of the Disciple & Christian Steward

Responsibility

"Well done good and faithful servant" Matthew 25:19. To be responsible is to first understand that we are not our own masters. Neither are we the owners of all that we possess. We belong to God, and all that we possess is a gift from God. Every gift comes with a responsibility. How do we use it? More importantly how do we share it? One day God will require an accounting of the use each person has made of the particular gifts entrusted to him or her.

August 7

Virtues of the Disciple & Christian Steward

Gratitude

“*A grateful heart silences a complaining voice*”, Bishop Eugene Gerber. Being a Christian steward means living each day in gratitude, not envy. It is hard to always be wanting more when you have a grateful heart. The secret to happiness is not found in having what you want, but is found by wanting what you have. Good stewards count their blessings while everyone else is adding up their problems.

August 14

Virtues of the Disciple & Christian Steward

Generosity

What is authentic generosity? It is born out of gratitude. For the Christian steward it means ‘*needing to give*’ not simply ‘*giving to a need*’ in order to relieve ourselves of guilt or obligation. Authentic generosity means we freely give of ourselves, our lives, and our possessions, without counting the cost. “*Mature disciples make a conscious, firm decision, carried out in action to be followers of Jesus Christ no matter the cost to themselves.*” Stewardship ó A Disciple& Responseö NCCB

August 21

Virtues of the Disciple & Christian Steward

Simplicity

“*Live simply so that others may simply live*”, Blessed Mother Teresa. Embracing a simpler lifestyle enables us to live more generously. Simple living is also the antidote for affluenza, the social disease caused by rampant consumerism and materialism.

A Prayer for Simplicity

Lord, grant me the grace to be free from the excesses of this life.
Let me not get caught up with the desire for wealth.
Keep my heart and mind free to love and serve you.

August 28

Virtues of the Disciple & Christian Steward

Mercy

“*Go and learn what the Scriptures mean when they say, ‘Instead of offering sacrifices to me, I want you to be merciful to others.’ I didn’t come to invite good people to be my followers. I came to invite sinners.*” Matthew 9:12-14

One of the greatest measures of mercy is the commitment to be compassionate towards everyone we meet. We pray that we will always be a community that welcomes all people with love and compassion.

September 4

Virtues of the Disciple & Christian Steward

Perseverance

“*My life is like a drink offering being poured out on the altar. I have fought well. I have finished the race, and I have been faithful*” 2 Timothy 4:6-7.

Discipleship and stewardship is a way of life that is both joyful and rewarding, while at the same time being challenging and sometimes difficult. Be persistent, patient and persevere! It has its rewards both in this life and in the life to come.