

## **Stewardship Bulletin Reflections – September 8<sup>th</sup> to September 29<sup>th</sup> 2013**

### **Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**

*“Whoever does not give up all their possessions cannot be my disciple”.* These are challenging words from Jesus in today’s Gospel. We all have legitimate needs – particularly our need to possess. In our lives today, we can respond to Jesus’ directive by possessing sensibly. Good stewards do this by discerning between needs and wants. Ask yourself, *“What do I own and what owns me?”* (Archbishop Thomas Murphy)

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### **Sunday September 15<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Today’s readings speak of God’s immeasurable mercy. Forgiveness and compassion are a part of God’s character and He wants them to be a part of yours as well. Mercy is forgiveness and compassion in action. To possess this virtue in your life you must first be able to accept mercy, and to forgive yourself when you fall. The way of the disciple and steward is not easy. Knowing that God’s mercy never ends allows you to walk the way of discipleship with confidence and patience.

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### **Sunday September 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**

*“We cannot serve God and wealth”*, says Jesus in today’s Gospel. So then, what are we to do? What is the solution to serving two masters when we need money to live? The answer is simple. Good stewardship is making your finances and faith work together. God should come first in how we choose to use our money. Christian stewards share first, save second, and spend third. The needy are also mentioned in today’s readings and God intends that our gifts be shared with them first, not from what we have left over.

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### **Sunday September 29<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Again this week we hear of our responsibility to the poor in terms of how we steward our wealth. If you do not think you are wealthy just consider for a moment that more than 3 ½ billion people in this world live on less than \$60 a month. Canada is a wealthy nation and millions around the world are simply getting the crumbs from our table – Canada currently gives just less than half of 1% of GDP in foreign aid. (Source: OECD, The World Bank, Development Assistance Committee) Please pray that our political leaders will be motivated to make a greater commitment to authentic generosity.

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