

Stewardship Bulletin Reflections – October 2013

Sunday October 6th – 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Jesus places two expectations on our discipleship and stewardship in today's Gospel. The first is that our acts of serving and giving are to be done without looking for thanks or recognition. Next Jesus calls us to go beyond obligation and duty when referring to the Apostles as "*worthless slaves*" for having done "*only what they ought to have done!*" God is much more interested in why we do what we do rather than what we do. When we serve and give out of love for God and one another we move from obligation and duty to what Jesus is looking for.

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

Sunday October 13th – 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Happy Thanksgiving! We all have so much to be grateful for. In the face of the daily barrage of advertisements that promote the endless pursuit of more and more stuff as the path to the good life, it can sometimes be a challenge to remain grateful. Much of the advertising we are subjected to is directed at creating a feeling of dissatisfaction not gratitude. Every year at this time we are reminded of how important the virtue of gratitude is in our lives, and that is good. Let us pray that the spirit of gratitude we celebrate this weekend is a daily habit in our lives? Stewardship is rooted in our never ending gratitude to God.

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Sunday October 20th – 29th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Today's readings speak of persistence, or persevering. Being a disciple and steward today is not easy. Others will question our chosen path simply because it runs counter to the culture of materialism, consumerism, and hedonism which promises the good life! The truth is that the way of discipleship and stewardship is very liberating and extremely rewarding. Prayer and patience are two critical virtues which help us to persevere. Another 'P' to remember on our journey is found in "progress". We can discover the courage and confidence to persevere by being grateful for our progress on the journey, even though we sometimes slip on the path of discipleship and stewardship.

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Sunday October 27th – 30th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Humility was an integral part of Jesus' nature and in today's Gospel it is clear that He wants it to be a part of our character as well. Humility is one of the virtues of authentic stewardship. Truly humble persons acknowledge that the talents, abilities, and opportunities they enjoy have nothing to do with themselves. These are God's gifts. They belong to Him and should be used in a manner that gives glory to God. Stewardship declares – "*It's not mine and it's not about me!*" That's real humility and once you can acknowledge that, you are ready to take up any challenge and follow Christ.

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