
STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

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A New Perspective

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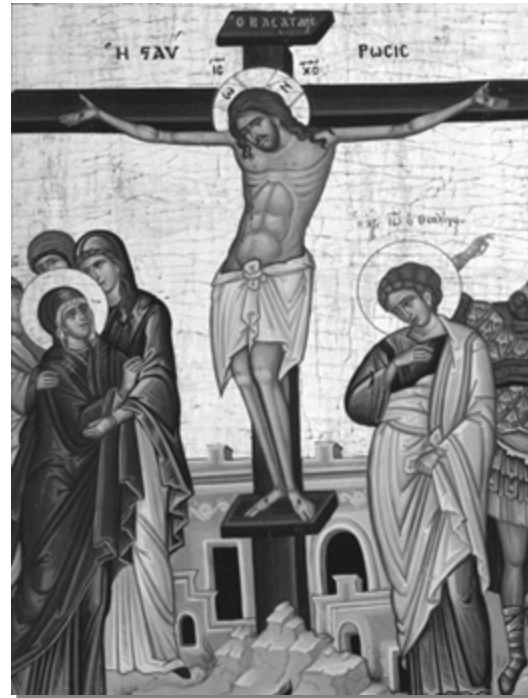
One day, a person complained to her priest that the Church and Christianity is one continual “**give, give, give!**” To which the priest replied, “Thank you for the finest definition of Christianity I have ever heard. You’re right, Christianity is all about a constant ‘give, give, give’; God giving His only Son to the world to show His unconditional love. His Son Jesus giving His life on the cross to destroy death. Then our Lord’s disciples giving all they had to make sure God’s Good News of love was preached to all people everywhere. They not only gave away their homes and businesses, but even gave up their lives as martyrs in gratitude to God!”



Oftentimes we get caught up seeing things from secular perspective rather than a spiritual one. We are often pulled in so many directions it feels as if we can’t give anymore.

Service however, is an opportunity to express and build our faith. Serving others is in essence serving God and building up His kingdom.

We can achieve a collective mission and make the world a more compassionate place to live by giving our time and talents to those around us. Stewardship of Service successfully bridges the material world around us and the Kingdom of God within us.



The Apostle Paul reminds us that each builder must choose with care how to build upon the foundation, which is Jesus Christ.

“Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—the work of each builder will become visible...If what has been built on the foundation survives the builder will receive a reward. If the work is burned up, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but as through fire” (1 Cor. 3:10-15)

How can you get involved at St. Josephs? What are you willing to give in order to build?



WEEKLY SCRIPTURAL REFLECTIONS ON STEWARDSHIP

August 3: Jesus urges us to be rich in what matters to God. The psalmist warns us against hardening our hearts. Are our hearts open to what really matters?

August 10: Am I waiting on the “right” time to become a good steward? Do I plan to share my time and talents “later”? The Gospel warns those who are procrastinating about stewardship to be prepared—“at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”

Aug 17: St. Paul encourages us not to grow weary or lose heart, but to persevere in following Jesus. Our willingness to give of ourselves, even in the face of conflict and division, is one way to measure our discipleship.

Aug 24: Isaiah describes the Israelites bringing their offering to the Lord “in clean vessels.” The gift of myself—my patient endurance and fidelity to the will of God—is as important as the monetary gift I offer.

Aug 31: Jesus tells the crowd that only those who renounce all of their possessions can be His disciples. Is He truly asking us to give up *everything*? Perhaps instead He is trying to help us see that everything we think we own is really a gift from God. Good stewards know that and strive to use those gifts accordingly.