

A Stewardship Minute

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

An introduction of Stewardship to the congregation

OCTOBER 2008

Have you ever considered what you would put in the offering ... if it wasn't money? A pastor recently asked people to physically bring something of special value to offer to the Lord. What was brought up to the altar was interesting to observe: Such things as jewelry, a watch or a tie clasp. One fellow went to his car, and brought back a golf bag full of brand new clubs! The pastor was teaching the congregation the importance of not just giving money, but sacrificing something tangible to God, who ultimately is the source of every gift we have. Our bodies, talents and even our time on the earth are all gifts from God. St. Paul wrote to the Christians (Romans 12:1):

I appeal to you...brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

At the age of 12, Mother Teresa offered herself as a living sacrifice and committed her life to God. As an older adult, she observed that the basic trouble with millions of people was that, while they knew something was missing in life, they did not know what it was. She said, "What they are missing is a living relationship with God." This month's issue of *Stewardship* points out that if we are to be true stewards of our lives, we must give ourselves totally to God for whatever use God has. When we do, offering your gifts, whatever they are becomes easy.

Prayer

Grant us, O Lord, the willingness to allow you to use us: body, mind, and soul to spread your Kingdom on earth. **Amen.**

To download and cut/paste "A Stewardship Minute" go to: www.parishpublishing.org/82153/October2008.pdf

Important Notice: Recently, we launched *Steward of the Month*, an exciting new way to get your congregation inspired about stewardship! Make an announcement and have them think of stories of exemplary stewards they know, and let us tell the world about them! All stories will appear on our site. We will choose one story each month to appear in *Stewardship* and donate \$100 to the church of their choice. For more information, go to: www.stewardofthemonth.com

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