

# What does it mean to give the *"first fruits"* of our time & talent?

All Christians are called as disciples of Jesus to be good stewards of the Father's gifts of life – time, talent, and treasure.

## RECOGNIZING GOD AS THE SOURCE OF ALL THAT WE HAVE

In reality, we do not own anything, **we are simply managers and caretakers** of the gifts and blessings given to us by our loving God.

## TRUSTING IN THE WISDOM OF GOD, NOT CONVENTIONAL WISDOM

**Stewardship places God first in our lives;** conventional wisdom promotes a "me first" attitude. **Stewardship is about generosity and sharing;** conventional wisdom is concerned with "getting ahead."

## SHOWING GRATITUDE

Gratitude is at the heart of stewardship. Our family and friends are gifts from God. So is our job which provides the food we eat, the cars we drive and the homes in which we sleep. Our parish is also a gift, because it nourishes us with God's Word and the Sacraments through the community of believers. **We respond in faith by being generous with those gifts and sharing them with others.**

## BEING WILLING TO SACRIFICE

Our faith calls us to holiness and the word "sacrifice" literally means "to make holy." **So when we sacrifice--not only with our income, but with our time and abilities--we make holy our lives, our families, our work.** That is why we present our gifts during the Mass; we are linking the sacrifice of our lives with the sacrifice Christ made for us on the cross.

## CHOOSING TO LIVE A SIMPLER LIFESTYLE

How can I simplify my life so that I can do more to build God's Kingdom? St. Elizabeth Ann Seton said: **"Live simply so that others may simply live."**

*"Christ has no body now on earth but yours; no hands or feet but yours.... yours are the eyes through which He is to go about doing good; yours are the hands and feet with which He is to bless people now."*

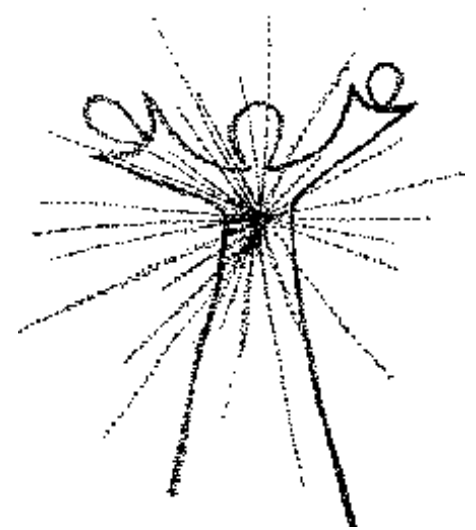
**St. Theresa of Avila**



***For Prayerful Reflection***

- ◆ Do I give God the "*first fruits*" of my **time** and **talent**?
- ◆ With Christians everywhere to live as good stewards of time and talent in faithful witness to Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.
- ◆ Am I currently using my **time** to apply my **talents** to serve the parish needs?
- ◆ How can I become **more actively** involved in serving the needs of my parish?
- ◆ Which of my **God-given talents** – how much of my **time** – should I be using to serve the **parish needs**?

# Giving the *"first fruits"* of our **Time and Talent**



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