



WHY IS STEWARDSHIP SO IMPORTANT?

All We Are and All We Have Are Gifts from a Merciful God. Everywhere We Invest Those Gifts, We Find Jesus.

God's lavish mercy compels us to pursue a path that mirrors the Lord's own. "Jesus tells us that the path to encountering him is to find his wounds. We find Jesus' wounds in carrying out works of mercy, giving to the body—the soul, too—but the body of your wounded brother, because he is hungry, because he is thirsty, because he is naked, because he is humiliated, because he is a slave, because he is in jail, because he is in the hospital. Those are the wounds of Jesus today. And Jesus asks us to take a leap of faith, toward him, through these wounds. We need to touch the wounds of Jesus, we must caress the wounds of Jesus, and we need to bind the wounds of Jesus" (*Pope Francis, On the Feast of St. Thomas, 7/3/2013*).

Surrounded by God's Mercy, We Pray, Serve and Give.

God is rich in mercy and calls us to be merciful. In the words of Jesus: "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" (*Luke 6:36*). Because we carry the burdens of the needy, we promise to pray. That we might "bind the wounds of Jesus," we commit to serve. And, as we embrace the joy of giving, we address needs bigger than ourselves, joining with others to help meet them. "Let us touch the dying, the poor, the lonely and the unwanted according to the graces we have received" (*St. Teresa of Calcutta, Greatest Life Lessons*).

Stewards of God's Mercy Take Time to Pray.

"Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at his disposition, and listening to his voice in the depth of our hearts" (*St. Teresa of Calcutta, Greatest Life Lessons*). Secure in the hands of God, we trust that his mercy surrounds us. Committed to pray regularly, we build lives of faithful devotion, believing our prayers draw us closer to the Father and more concerned for others and the burdens they carry. Stewards of our time, we commit to pray.

Stewards of God's Gifts Invest Well by Serving Others.

"Mercy is the divine attitude which embraces, it is God's giving himself to us, and bowing to forgive. He did not come for the healthy, who do not need the doctor, but for the sick" (*Pope Francis, The Name of God Is Mercy*). Committed to share God's generosity with others, we invest ourselves fully in works of mercy and service, knowing we become Christ to others—addressing their concerns much as God has met our own. Stewards of our talent, we commit to minister.

Stewards of the Lord's Bounty Bless Others Generously.

Giving that is worthy of God's blessing is offered without condition or anticipated return, generously, and—to a degree that reflects the gift of Jesus Christ—sacrificially. "If you give what you do not need, it is not giving" (*St. Teresa of Calcutta, Greatest Life Lessons*). We give willingly, especially to those in need. Pope Francis has noted, "God's heart has a special place for the poor, so much so that He himself became poor." Stewards of our treasure, we commit to give.