



## Stewardship



### Gardening as a Parable of God's Kingdom

The first day of spring came back in March and each day seems to get noticeably longer and new life pushes it's way up through the ground. Spring has traditionally been thought of as a time of new beginnings, new awakenings. As a child, it meant preparing the family garden for another growing season. Today it has taken on an even greater growing experience. My father always said that he was closest to God when he was in the garden.

The Bible begins and ends with humankind-and God-in a garden. In the beginning, God comes down to be with the first man and woman, whom he has placed in the Garden of Eden to tend it. In the last chapter of Revelation, the celestial city that God has prepared as an eternal dwelling place of humankind with himself is likened to a garden.

Bishop Morneau of Green Bay compares stewardship to a garden in that it is something that needs to be **planted** (recognizing God as the source of all we have through prayer and thanking God for all those gifts), **tended** (cultivated and nurtured), and **harvested** (sharing with others and giving back to God).

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### KIDS CORNER

#### Sowing Seeds of Stewardship:

Next month celebrate May Day. Since ancient times May Day has been a joyous celebration to mark the return of spring. Certainly this is a good time to thank God for all the new growth and new gifts that are so abundant in spring.

In England children traditionally dance around the Maypole, decorated with streamers, garland, flowers and dyed eggshells. An early American tradition was to leave a basket of flowers on a neighbor's door.

A fun project might be to have your children draw or color a basket of flowers. They can write the message "Happy May Day from a friend!" on the top. Then help them to secretly leave their cheery message in the mailbox or on the doorknob of a friend or neighbor.

Afterward, have a special snack together and share how it feels to secretly do something nice for someone else.



#### Prayer of Gratitude

You've blessed me with friends, and laughter, and fun.  
With rain that's as soft as the light of the sun.  
You've blessed me with stars to brighten each night.  
You've given me help to know wrong from right.  
You've given me so much.  
Please, Lord, give me too,  
a heart that is always grateful to you.

## Bravo!

Each issue we'd like to recognize a certain demonstration of stewardship within our parish community. This issue we recognize:

All of the members of the **Coffee and Donut Committee!**

Please be sure to thank them for their stewardship to our parish community.

## The Garden of Relationships

Our lives are busy. But the purpose of our lives is all about relationships – with God, with each other. To neglect our relationships, especially with those who are close to us, is to not exercise good stewardship. Our relationships can be a lot of work, but they are crucial for our survival. We must give our relationships proper time and attention – just like the gardener giving proper time and attention to his garden. Some ideas for tending the garden of our relationships:

- Send a card to someone who is in need of support.
- When you hear a siren, say a prayer for those it is going to aid and a prayer of thanksgiving for those who help them.
- Invite some friends over that you haven't gotten together with in a while.
- Write a letter to someone you've not spoken to/written to in a while.
- Take a parenting class or anger management class (they are great for learning better communication skills, even if you don't think they'd apply to you).
- Attend extended family gatherings if at all possible. Maintaining a relationship with those who share a common history and background can help us understand more about our past and our future.
- Don't be shy – when appropriate wave/ say hello.
- Tell someone that they are gifted – compliment them on their talents.
- Don't pass on gossip or participate when people are gossiping.

Good gardeners know what they are working for, and they know how to celebrate the results of their labor. Let Spring be a time for new beginnings in your life and faith.



The kiss of the sun for pardon,  
The song of the birds for mirth,  
One is nearer God's heart in a garden  
Than anywhere else on earth.

~Dorothy Frances Gurney, "Garden Thoughts"

*Happy moments, praise God  
Difficult moments, seek God  
Quiet moments, worship God  
Painful moments, trust God  
Every moment, thank God*

*Dig right in.....*



Here are just a few of the upcoming opportunities for your stewardship "gardening":

April 19 - **Spring Clean Up** in the prayer garden. Bring your rakes, shovels and gloves! Starting at 9:00 am

April 19 - **Habitat for Humanity** OLL build day. Morning and afternoon shifts. See Sr. Brigid for more info.

April 27 - **Blessing of the Bikes** gates open at 10:00 am at the Ottawa County Fair Grounds

April 29 - **Gleaners** food distribution 4:00 - 5:30 pm in the parking lot.

May 2 - **Eucharistic Adoration** 9:30 am - 7:30 pm in the chapel

May 11 - **Kids Food Basket** 3:30-5:00 pm see kiosk for more information

April & May - **Pictorial Directory:** Please contact Kim Pustover at 786-9935 if you would like to assist with this project.