
What is Stewardship?

In its simplest form stewardship is a way of life that involves:

- ❖ Believing that everything we have is a gift from God.
 - ❖ Recognizing that God has blessed us uniquely and that we must be grateful to God for the gifts that we have.
 - ❖ Knowing that we show our gratitude to and love for God by giving back a portion of our time, talent and treasure to do God's work here on earth, returning them with increase to the Lord.
 - ❖ Understanding that stewardship gives rise to service, gratitude, joy and draws us closer to God, and as a way of life can be the full expression of Christian discipleship.
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A Challenge

The STA stewardship committee and parish leadership challenges each parishioner to:

- ❖ *Examine how you share in the Church's mission by virtue of your baptism in Christ;*
- ❖ *Examine how you use your energies, your time, and your talents in relationship to your faith;*
- ❖ *Examine your financial giving in support of your faith community and the Church.*

*Through prayer and discernment make a commitment to **BE CHURCH and not just go to church** – to take ownership in this faith community – to accept the call of stewardship as central to being a member of a Catholic faith community.*

We challenge you "like good stewards...to put your gifts at the service of one another, each in the measure you have received." [1 Peter 4:10] It is what is expected and certainly what the love of God deserves.

Stewardship

at
St. Thomas Aquinas

We are called
to BE Church, not
just go to church



...where tradition comes to life

St. Thomas Aquinas Church
and Catholic Student Center

Ames, Iowa



The youngest steward in the Bible. Besides the Resurrection, the feeding of the 5,000 is the only miracle found in each of the four Gospels. Chapter 6 of the Gospel of John records the event, noting one key difference from the other Gospels. The supplier of the five barley loaves and two fishes is identified as a boy.

The miracle of stewardship. Jesus had asked his disciples where they should buy bread for the people to eat. This was asked, as were most of Jesus' questions, to teach or reveal a greater truth. Jesus already had in mind what he

was going to do. All he needed was a person totally yielded and ready to give all he had. Philip pointed out that it would cost two hundred days' wages to give each person there even a bite to eat, much less satisfy their hunger. It is so typical of our own response to an immense need to feel ill equipped, outnumbered, overwhelmed, and intimidated. We look at the cost; we look at what we can't do, and we don't even try.

But look how one young boy responded to the need. He took all that he had been given (probably his mom had given him his lunch), and he gave it to Jesus to do with as he would. The boy did not know Jesus' plan. All he knew was that there was a need and he had been given meager resources. Five barley loaves represented the cheapest food of the poor. Jesus took the meager, inadequate gift and with prayer and thanksgiving multiplied the gift so that all who were hungry were fed. And there were twelve baskets of abundance remaining. What a lesson for the twelve disciples who carried the baskets of leftovers!

What a lesson for each of us. Even if our resources of time, talent, and treasure seem inadequate, if we give our all to Jesus with prayer and thanksgiving, he will perform a miracle. He will touch multitudes in ways that we will perhaps never know. If we give sacrificially, God will create abundance and satisfaction. Jesus' last words in this account are: "Let nothing be wasted." Let us bring everything, we have been given, to God, and watch how God will multiply our poor offerings into abundant blessings here at St. Thomas, in Ames and throughout God's Kingdom.

There is a place for everyone at St. Thomas Aquinas -- all are welcome. We celebrate liturgy together; we celebrate family and each other; we grow intellectually and spiritually; we welcome and involve college students; we reach out to the needy and in all our ministry we build a dynamic faith community through a spirit of developing stewardship. STA is blessed with many generous people, in terms of sharing both themselves and their treasure. Some parishioners cannot commit much; some can commit much more. We are called to respond to the love of God as best we can. When we strive to give our best and grow together as stewards, we create a community that celebrates God's grace in our lives, and as good and faithful stewards we build God's Kingdom in the here-and-now.

