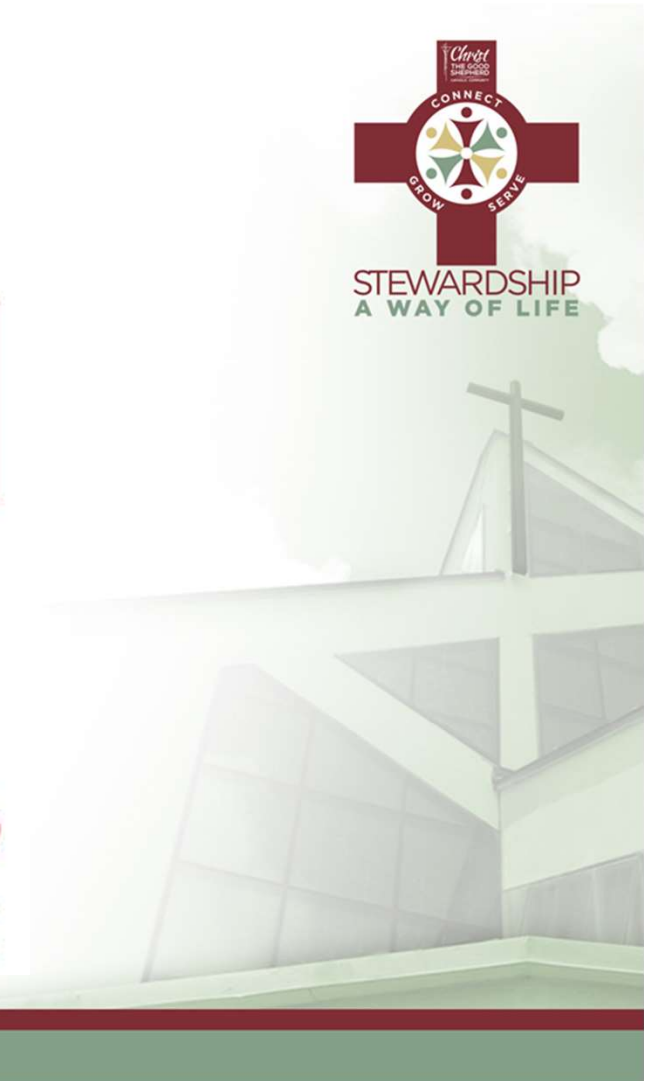




# WELCOME



## STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Loving God, I come to you in thanksgiving, knowing that all I am and all that I have is a gift from you. In faith and love, help me to do your will. I am listening, Lord God. Speak your words into the depth of my soul, that I may hear you clearly. I offer to you this day all the facets of my life, whether it be at home, at work, or at school—to be patient, to be merciful, to be generous, to be holy. Give me the wisdom and insight to understand your will for me and the fervor to fulfill my good intentions. I offer my gifts of time, talent and possessions to you as a true act of faith, to reflect my love for you and my neighbor. Help me to reach out to others as you my God have reached out to me.



## CGS Mission and Vision

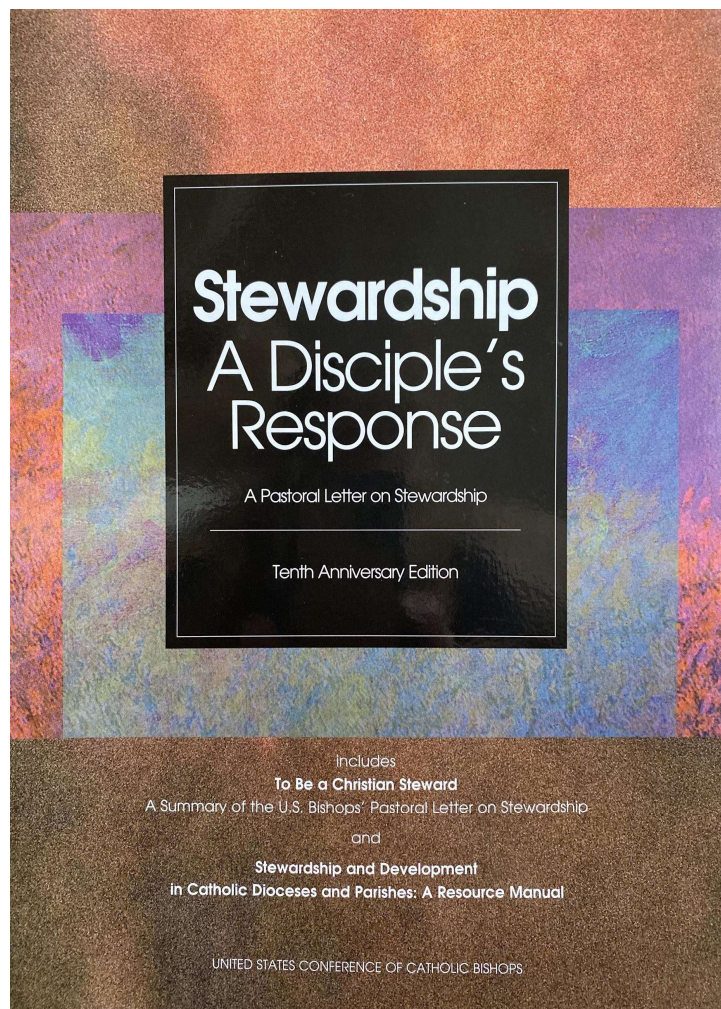
- Our mission as a Roman Catholic community is to proclaim the teachings of Jesus Christ as declared in the scriptures and shown in the sacred tradition of the church. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to know, love, and serve God and our neighbors.
- Vision: Build a community of love and hope by putting our faith into action.





# Stewardship: A Disciple's Response

Session 3



# Outline

Introduction/ Call

Jesus' Way

**Living as a Steward**

Stewards of the Church

The Christian Steward



# Review

- How does the Word of God and what I have learned so far challenge me?
- What is Jesus' Way?





# Jesus' Way

1. Sermon on the Mount
2. Beatitudes – Matthew 5:3-10



# Jesus' Understanding of a Steward

- The Parable of the Talents
- Trust
- Accountability



## The Steward's Reward

- Mark 10:28, Peter asks, “We have given up everything and followed you [Jesus].”
- Jesus’ response (Mark 10:29-30), “There is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age: houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions and eternal life in the age to come.”



## Living as a Steward

- “God wishes human beings to be his collaborators in the work of creation, redemption, and sanctification; and such collaboration involves stewardship in its most profound sense.

We exercise such stewardship, furthermore, not merely by our own power but by the power of the Spirit of truth, whom Jesus promises to his followers (cf. Jn 14:16-17).” (pg. 25)



## Living as Steward

“God not only creates human beings... but also bestows on them the divine image and likeness (cf. Gen 1:26). As part of this resemblance to God, people are called to cooperate with the Creator in continuing the divine work (cf. Pope John Paul II, *Laborem Exerc*



## Pope Francis – *Laudato Si*, “On Our Common Home”

**Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home** is the new appeal from Pope Francis addressed to "every person living on this planet" for an inclusive dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet.

Pope Francis calls the Church and the world to acknowledge the urgency of our environmental challenges and to join him in embarking on a new path.



## Pope Francis – *Laudato Si*, “On Our Common Home”

- This encyclical is written with both hope and resolve, looking to our common future with candor and humility. The title is taken from the first line of the encyclical, "Laudato si', mi Signore," or "Praise be to you, my Lord."



## The Dignity of Work

- The human activity of “cultivating and caring” for the creation of God “has a generic name: work. It is not a punishment for or a consequence of sin. True, sin does painfully skew the experience of work: ‘By the sweat of your face shall you get bread to eat’ (Gn. 3:19). But, even so, God’s mandate to humankind to collaborate with him in the task of creating – the command to work- comes *before* the Fall. Work is a fundamental aspect of the human vocation. It is necessary for human happiness and fulfillment. It is intrinsic to responsible stewardship of the world.” (pg. 25)





## The Gift of Life



- “The reverence and readiness begin with opening one’s eyes to how precious a gift life really is – and that it is not easy, in the view of our tendency to take the gift for granted...”  
(pg. 26)

## The Gift of Life

- “Beyond simply appreciating natural beauty, there is the active stewardship of ecological concern. Ecological stewardship means cultivating a heightened sense of human interdependence and solidarity. It therefore calls for renewed efforts to address what Pope John Paul II calls ‘the structural forms of poverty’ existing in this country and on the international level’ (Message for the World Day of Peace, January 1, 1990)... (pg. 26)



## Material Creation

- “At the same time, life as a Christian steward also requires continued involvement in the human vocation to cultivate material creation. This productivity embraces art, scholarship, science, and technology, as well as business and trade, physical labor, skilled work of all kinds, and serving others...”  
(pg. 27)



## Redemption and Stewardship

- Baptism makes us a “royal priesthood” (1 Peter 2:9).
- “Part of what is involved here for Catholics is a stewardship of time, which should include setting aside periods for family prayer, for the reading of Scripture, for visits to the Blessed Sacrament, and for attendance at Mass during the week whenever possible.”



# Suffering

- “For one’s estimate of suffering, as Pope John Paul II points out, is transformed by discovering its ‘salvific meaning’ when united with the suffering of Christ” (*Salvifici Doloris*, no. 27).



## Cooperation in Redemption

- Penance
  - **Interior:** a conversion of heart toward God and away from sin, which implies the intention to change one's life because of hope in divine mercy (CCC 1431).
  - **External:** acts of penance include fasting, prayer, and almsgiving (CCC 1434). The observance of certain penitential practices is obliged by the fourth precept of the Church (2043).



## Precepts of the Church

- Attend mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.
- Confess your sins at least once per year.
- Receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter Season.
- Observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church
- Help provide for the needs of the Church



## Penance (cont'd)

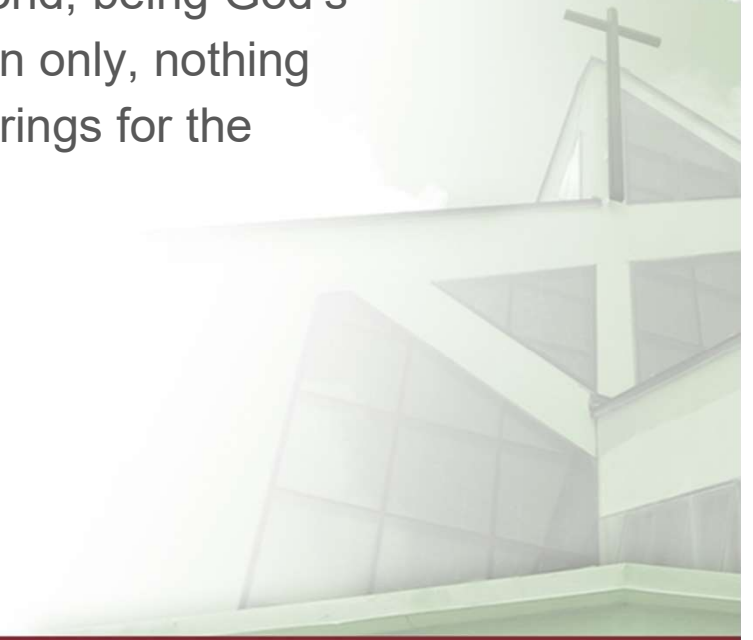
- Through voluntary accepted penance one gradually becomes liberated from those obstacles to Christian discipleship which a secularized culture exalting individual gratification places in one's way. These obstacles include not just the quest for pleasure but also avarice, a craving for the illusion of absolute dominion and control, valuing creatures without reference to their Creator, excessive individualism, and ultimately the fear of death unrelieved by hope for eternal life." (pg. 27)





## Penance (cont'd)

- Cardinal Newman, “Let us master this great and simple truth that all rich materials and productions of this world, being God’s property, are intended for God’s service; and sin only, nothing but sin, turns them to a different purpose” (Offerings for the Sanctuary” in *Parochial and Plain Sermons*...)



# Sin

- Sin - “causes people to turn in on themselves; to become grasping and exploitative toward possessions and other people; to grow accustomed to conducting relationships not by the standards of generous stewardship but by the calculus of self-interest: ‘What’s in it for me?’ Constantly, Christians must beg God for the grace of conversion: the grace to know who they are, to whom they belong, how they are to live – the grace to repent and change and grow, the grace to become good disciples and stewards. (pg. 28)



## Sacrament of Reconciliation

- “The Spirit of wisdom and courage helps people seek pardon and be mindful, in the face of all their forgetting, that the most important work of their lives is to be Jesus’ disciples.” (pg. 28)



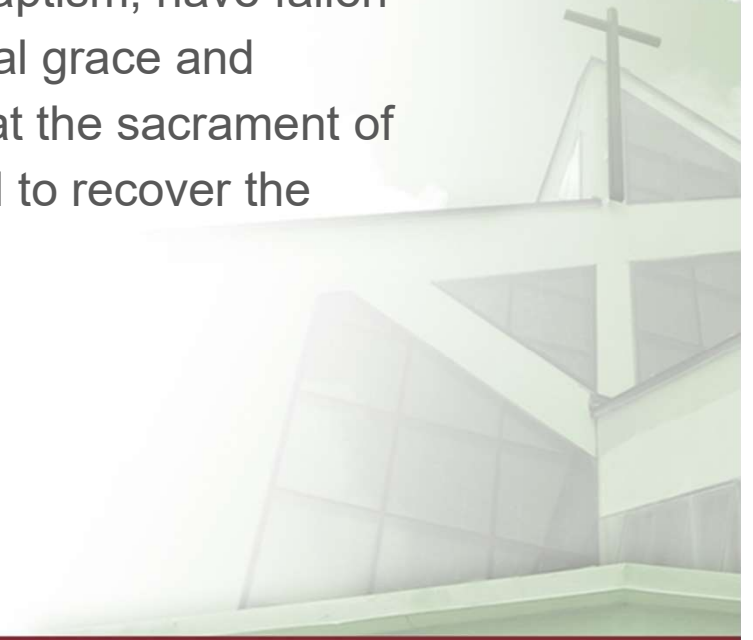
## Forgiveness of Sins

- During his public life Jesus not only forgave sins, but also made plain the effect of this forgiveness: he reintegrated forgiven sinners into the community of the People of God from which sin had alienated or even excluded them. A remarkable sign of this is the fact that Jesus receives sinners at his table, a gesture that expresses in an astonishing way both God's forgiveness and the return to the bosom of the People of God. CCC-1443



## Sacrament of Reconciliation

- “Christ instituted the sacrament of Penance for all sinful members of his Church: above all for those who, since Baptism, have fallen into grave sin, and have thus lost their baptismal grace and wounded ecclesial communion. It is to them that the sacrament of Penance offers a new possibility to convert and to recover the grace of justification...” CCC 1446



## Forgiveness of Sins

- “Only God forgives sins. Since he is the Son of God, Jesus says of himself, ‘The Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins’ and exercises this divine power: ‘Your sins are forgiven.’ (Mark 2:5, 10; Luke 7:48) Further, by virtue of his divine authority he gives this power to men to exercise in his name (John 20:21-23).” CCC - 1441



## Be Reconciled to God

- Christ has willed that in her prayer and life and action his whole Church should be the sign and instrument of the forgiveness and reconciliation that he acquired for us at the price of his blood. But he entrusted the exercise of the power of absolution to the apostolic ministry which he charged with the 'ministry of reconciliation (II Corinthians 5:18). The apostle is sent out 'on behalf of Christ' with "God making his appeal' through him and pleading: 'Be reconciled to God'" (II Cor 5:20).



# Christian Stewardship

- The stewardship of disciples involves embracing, cultivating, enjoying, sharing - and sometimes also giving up - the goods of human life. Christians live this way in the confidence that comes from faith: for they know that the human goods they cherish and cultivate will be perfected – and they themselves will be fulfilled – in that Kingdom, already present, which Christ will bring to perfection and one day hand over to the Father.” (pg. 28)





# Reflection

- Matthew 5:13-16

You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lamp stand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.



## John 15: 16-17

It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another.



## I Corinthians 12:4-7

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.



# Homework

- As you undertake stewardship more and more as a way of your Christian life, do you foresee any difficulties, obstacles, etc.?



## Closing Prayer

Loving Father, we ask You to bless our efforts to build a community pleasing to You, as we worship with humble and contrite hearts. Help us as Our Journey Continues in Building a Faith-Filled Future for our community. We are called together by the power of the Holy Spirit, therefore, we rely on your constant guidance and help. Grant us wisdom to know your will, so we may respond with generous hearts. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



