

# *Living a Life of Stewardship*

*“What return can I make to the Lord for  
all that He has done for me?”*

(Psalm 116:12)

## **Stewardship Journal**

+ If we are truly **DISCIPLES** of Christ, our lives must be lives of **STEWARDSHIP!**

+ As disciples, we are challenged to realize that **ALL THAT WE ARE** and **ALL THAT WE HAVE** are **GIFTS FROM GOD** - our **TIME**, our **TALENT**, our **TREASURE** – especially the very gift of life itself! All of these gifts were **FREELY** and **UNCONDITIONALLY** given to us by God out of **LOVE!**

+ As a good “**STEWARD**”, we recognize that....

- All gifts come from God!
- God created us with the need to give and we give in a spirit of **THANKSGIVING** and **JOY!**
- We do not “own” these gifts, but are called to use our unique set of gifts to love and serve God and neighbor to build the Kingdom of God!
- We must give ourselves to God first; then we give to others – individuals, parish, community and world!
- God desires that we **FREELY choose** to use our gifts of **TIME**, **TALENT**, and **TREASURE**, and that we are motivated to **GIVE** out of **LOVE**, **GRATITUDE**, **JUSTICE**, AND **JOY**, not out of duty, obligation, fear or guilt.
- Living a life of **STEWARDSHIP** will lead us to a deeper awareness of God’s presence in our lives, into a more personal and profound relationship with Christ, and it will strengthen us to share the Gospel message with all those we meet!

**THIS JOURNAL SHOULD BE STARTED IN THE SUMMER AND SHOULD BE TURNED IN BY MARCH 10<sup>th</sup>!**  
**YOU WILL DISCUSS YOUR REFLECTIONS DURING YOUR CONFIRMATION INTERVIEW.**

## Stewardship of TIME

If someone were to ask you, "To whom or what to you give most of your time?", how would you answer? Being a steward of TIME means making time for the things that are the most important in our lives, the things we love the most.

Shouldn't God be the most important thing in our lives? Shouldn't God be who we love the most? Isn't God the one who gave us TIME in the first place, by giving us the very gift of life! What TIME to I give to God?

**\* During your Confirmation preparation, you are asked to evaluate how you use the gift of your TIME, especially in regard to the time you dedicate to God in prayer (personal prayer, family prayer, and communal prayer) and to make a commitment to giving more of your TIME to God. You are also asked to participate in different experiences of prayer offered at our parish or at your sponsor's parish. SEE PAGES 3-4!**

## Stewardship of TALENT

Has anyone ever told you, "Wow! You are really good at \_\_\_\_\_!" *(You fill in the blank.)*  
Your response should be, "Thanks be to God!"

All of our TALENTS - our unique skills, abilities, and attributes — are gifts from God. And we have the responsibility to discover our TALENTS and use them in service of God, others, our parish community and the world. Sometimes, it is very easy for us to recognize and use our TALENTS. Sometimes, the insights of other people help us to identify our TALENTS. And sometimes, we do not uncover TALENTS we have until we try something new.

**\* During your Confirmation preparation, you will be asked to use your TALENTS in service to God and others. You will be asked to complete a total of 30 service hours - 15 hours of Parish Exploration Service Hours (service that must be completed at St. Raphael Parish so that you can learn about the faith community that you will be fully initiated into) and 15 hours of Community/School/Family Service Hours. You will be asked to write a short reflection about one of your service experiences. SEE PAGES 5-7!**

## Stewardship of TREASURE

Have you ever thought about what it would be like to not have a home to live in, clothes to wear, or a refrigerator with food in it? Have you ever been truly honest about what you could or couldn't live without?

For most of us, we take for granted the basic necessities of life and instead we have the tendency to complain about what we do not have. Seldom do we think about what a luxury it is to go to a movie or a pro-basketball game or even to purchase a \$5 smoothie at Robek's! And the ironic thing is, we fall into the trap of believing that all these "things" that we spend our TREASURE on will make us truly happy.

When we honestly look at all that we have — our possessions, our material goods, our "things" - and the way that we spend our money (or our parents' money), we are challenged to live differently. Discipleship demands that we give of our TREASURE — we give back to God from all the blessings He has given to us and we give out of love to others.

**During your Confirmation preparation, you will be asked to reflect upon the ways in which you use the TREASURE that God has given to you and to put into practice some new ways to give from all that you have received. SEE PAGE 8!**

# Stewardship of TIME Reflection

During your Confirmation preparation, you are asked to evaluate how you use the gift of your TIME, especially in regard to the time you dedicate to God in prayer (personal prayer, family prayer, and communal prayer) and to make a commitment to giving more of your TIME to God. You are also asked to participate in different experiences of prayer offered at our parish or at your sponsor's parish.

These pages will help you to discover how you view and use the gift of TIME and they will challenge you to make a stronger commitment to giving back to God your time so as to develop a deeper relationship with Christ.

## DURING THE SUMMER, COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING 3 QUESTIONS BELOW

## AND THEN WRITE YOUR PERSONAL "COMMITMENT OF TIME" ON PAGE 4.

- 1) **How would you describe your prayer life?** Use the following questions to help you: When do you pray? How often do you pray? How do you pray? Where do you pray? What do you pray for?

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- 2) **Do you attend Mass regularly (meaning every weekend) and do you actively participate in the liturgy (sing, respond, listen to readings/homily)? Do you celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly (meaning 3-4 times a year)?**

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- 3) **Do you participate in other prayer/spiritual growth opportunities offered by our parish such as Stations of the Cross, Adoration, daily Mass, Masses for special occasions, etc.?**

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# My Personal Commitment of TIME

After reflecting on your answers to the questions on Page 3, describe how you will commit to giving more TIME to God on the lines below. Try to make your commitments very specific and clear. For example – instead of committing, “I will pray more”, it would be better to commit to something more concrete. If at this time in your life you do not spend any time praying, perhaps a good commitment would be, “I will pray for 5 minutes each morning when I wake up.” If you already have a regular prayer routine, perhaps you could add reading a few chapters of Scripture to your prayer time. If you do not say a prayer before you eat, perhaps you could begin to do that. Maybe when you pray, you do all the talking, so a great commitment would be to spend more time listening to what God has to say to you!

You should also think about making some commitments to participate in the communal prayer life of our parish. If attending Mass each week is not part of your life right now, it would be great for you to make that commitment. Perhaps you could commit to spending a half hour in adoration every month. Or maybe you could attend a Saturday morning Mass once a month. It would be great to do these with your sponsor! You can also participate in events at your sponsor’s parish.

**These are just some examples! YOU need to decide what commitments you need make so that YOUR relationship with God is strengthened. Only YOU know what you need to do.**

**God, these are the ways I promise to give my TIME to You:**

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**“UNTIL YOU ARE CONVINCED THAT PRAYER  
IS THE BEST USE OF YOUR TIME,  
YOU WILL NOT FIND TIME FOR PRAYER.”**

~ FATHER HILARY OTTENSMEYER, OSB

# Stewardship of TALENT Reflection

During your Confirmation preparation, you will be asked to use your TALENTS in service to God and others. You will be asked to complete a total of 30 service hours - 15 hours of Parish Exploration Service Hours (service that must be completed at St. Raphael Parish so that you can learn about your faith community) and 15 hours of Community/School/Family Service Hours. You will be asked to write a short reflection about one of your service experiences.

## Parish Exploration Service Hours

- As part of the Confirmation Formation requirement, each candidate is asked to complete a **minimum** of **15 Parish Exploration Service Hours by March 10<sup>th</sup>**. You will keep track of these hours on Page 6.
- To help you learn about all of the different ways to volunteer at St. Raphael, you are asked to volunteer for at least 3 different projects/programs. **YOU MAY NOT EARN ALL OF YOUR SERVICE HOURS IN ONE PROJECT!**
- If you and your sponsor complete your Candidate/Sponsor Service Project at St. Raphael, you may count these hours for both your Sponsor Meeting #2 requirement and your Parish Exploration Service Hours.

Some opportunities to volunteer at the Parish include: *Vacation Bible School, Teacher's Aide at Preschool PSR or PSR, Babysitter for PSR or Littlest Angels Room, Youth Ministry and Confirmation Donut Sales, Blanket and Bundle Sundays, Helping Hands Food Drive, Pumpkin Pies, Christmas Toy Drive, Adopt-a-Family Program, Coat Collection, Children's Clothing Drive, St. Augustine Meal Program, Pancake Breakfast, Neighbors Who Care, The Souper Bowl of Caring, Christmas in July, SVDP Back to School Drive, Keeping Connected in College Program, Assisting at First Reconciliation/First Communion retreats, altar server, assistance with CYO Athletics programs (passing out uniforms, coaching younger teams) and any additional projects/programs listed in the Social Concerns Ministry Booklet or in the Parish Bulletin.*

## Community/School/Family Service Hours

- As part of the Confirmation Formation requirement, each candidate is asked to complete a **minimum** of **15 Community/School/Family Service Hours by March 10<sup>th</sup>**. You will keep track of these hours on Page 6.
- You can include any type of service for these hours – raking leaves/shoveling snow for others, grocery shopping for others, volunteering at a nursing home, tutoring at school, visiting an elderly person, cleaning up a local park, babysitting children for free, etc. **Your “Family” hours should not include your regular chores!**
- If you and your sponsor complete your Candidate/Sponsor Service Project outside of St. Raphael, you may count these hours for both your Sponsor Meeting #2 requirement and your Community/School/Family Service Hours.



***“Love cannot remain by itself – it has no meaning. Love has to be put into action and that action is service.”***

~ Blessed Mother Teresa

For each service project, please complete the date, the amount of time you volunteered, what the name of the project was or describe what you did and then have an adult who was in charge of the project or your parent sign it.

**Parish Exploration Service Hours: Minimum of 15 Hours due March 10<sup>th</sup>**

Date	Amount of Time	Name or Description of Project	Signature of Adult in charge of Project or Parent

**Community/School/Family Service Hours: Minimum of 15 Hours due March 10<sup>th</sup>**

Date	Amount of Time	Name or Description of Project	Signature of Adult in charge of Project or Parent



# Stewardship of TREASURE Reflection

During your Confirmation preparation, you will be asked to reflect upon the ways in which you use the TREASURE that God has given to you and to commit to some new ways to give from all that you have received.

## Here are some questions to think about:

- Do you always want more “stuff”? Do you really need more or do you think you could do with less?
- Do you appreciate all that you have or do you take for granted all that you have?
- Do you freely give/share what you have?
- Do the things you spend money on really matter or could the money be used to help someone else?
- Are there things in your room, closet, garage, or basement that you haven’t used in days, months or even years? Would someone else benefit from you donating these items?
- Can you think of a few things you spend money on each week that you could sacrifice so that someone in need could have a meal to eat, a new pair of socks, or a place to sleep?
- Do I regularly give money to those in need? Do I ever personally contribute to my parish, or do I just let me parents do that?

## My Personal Commitment of TREASURE

After reflecting on your answers to the questions above, describe, on the lines below, how you will commit to giving more of your TREASURE to God and to others. Again, try to make your commitments very specific and clear. For example, if you receive an allowance every week, you could commit to donating a percentage to a charity of your choice. Or maybe instead of asking for gifts for your birthday, you could ask your guests to bring donations of clothing or food for a local shelter or food bank. You could commit to cleaning out your room and donating items that you do not use and maybe even some that you do! (We are called to sacrificially give too!)

## God, these are the ways I promise to give my TREASURE to You:

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