

# STEWARDSHIP AS SPIRITUALITY: HELPING BUSY PEOPLE GROW CLOSER TO THE LORD

## I. Introduction

## II. What is a steward? (Bishops' Definition)

A steward is one who:

- receives God's gifts gratefully,
- cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner,
- shares them in justice and love with all, and
- returns them with increase to the Lord.

"People need to hear the stewardship message."

## III. What is spirituality?

- "The water in which we swim!"
- Jesus as model of stewardship in word and deed

## IV. How is stewardship a spirituality?

- Stewardship is a practical spirituality, the connection between the spiritual and the material.
- "Stewardship is a spirituality – a way of holiness – for people who spend much of their lives earning money, spending money, and worrying about money."
- "What are you doing with your life?"
- "Stewardship is an overriding theological and spiritual concept that integrates much of what we are already doing in our dioceses and parishes."
- Lord, what do You want me to do to fulfill Your will for Your Church?"

## V. How do we "live" stewardship as a spirituality?

- "Stewardship is what we do after we say 'We Believe'."
- "Hold back nothing of yourselves for yourselves so that He who gives Himself totally to you may receive you totally." (St. Francis of Assisi)

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*Christ has no body now on earth, but yours.*

*No hands but yours, no feet but yours.*

*Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must look out on the world.*

*Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good.*

*Yours are the hands with which He is to bless His people.*

- St. Teresa of Avila -

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Rev. Daniel J. Mahan  
Executive Director,  
Marian College Center for Catholic Stewardship  
3200 Cold Spring Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46222  
USA  
317.955.6152  
dmahan@marian.edu  
www.morethansilverorgold.com