

Why Stewardship?

I. Introduction

Steward: from the Middle English *stiweard*

- *sti* = *hall*
- *weard* = keeper
- therefore: “keeper of the hall”

Distinction between stewardship and ownership

Stewardship: secular fundraising in sheep’s clothing?

(from *The Passionate Steward* by Michael O’Hurley-Pitts, 2001)

Secular Fundraising	Christian Stewardship
Most often about money	Always about time and talent first, then treasure
Focused on the organization	Focused on the individual soul
Seeks fulfillment in a short-term goal	Seeks change that is life-long
Promotes recognition for gifts given	Promotes altruistic acts of compassion
Based upon persuasion, can be manipulative	Based upon a faith response

II. Why Stewardship? A Spirituality for Our Times

- A way of life practiced by one who has reflected seriously upon the implications of discipleship
- A new word, but an ancient practice in the Church

III. Why was the Pastoral Letter written

- Practical realities of the 1980's
- Times had changed
- The culture had changed: A Culture of "Isms"
 - a. Individualism / Narcissism
 - b. Materialism
 - c. Hedonism
 - d. Relativism
 - e. Atheism
 - f. Nihilism

IV. Stewardship as Remedy

- Conversion
- Commitment
- Power to transform

Bibliography

Stewardship: A Disciple's Response. A Pastoral Letter of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. 1992, 2002; published in Australia, Saint Catherine of Siena Press, 2007

Stewardship and Development in Catholic Dioceses and Parishes: A Resource Manual. Stewardship Committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. 1994.

Stewardship: Disciples Respond, A Practical Guide for Pastoral Leaders. International Catholic Stewardship Council, 1997, 2004.

For additional reading ...

More than Silver or Gold: Homilies of a Stewardship Priest by Daniel J. Mahan. Claretian Publications and Saint Catherine of Siena Press, 2006.

What Do I Own and What Owns Me? A Spirituality of Stewardship by Daniel Conway. Twenty-third Publications, Mystic CT, 2005.

Stewardship in America: A Countercultural Way of Life by Daniel Conway. Saint Catherine of Siena Press. Indianapolis, 2006.

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