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Many people will give money to other community groups in addition to supporting the Church.

**Question:** *What portion of my time, talent and treasure should I give?*

**Answer:** What you decide to give is a decision made between you and God. Some Christians choose the biblical norm of giving ten percent of their treasure. Because of circumstances, some give more than that. Other might start giving at three or four percent and work upward. Many individuals commit a certain number of hours each week to prayer and charitable activities as a commitment of time & talent.

**Question:** *Isn't stewardship of treasure just another attempt to raise funds for the Church?*

**Answer:** No, it is not, although some people mistakenly see it that way. First, stewardship is based on the Bible, which states that God has given to each of us treasure to be held for

the honor and glory of God and the good of others. Second, it is based on the individual's need to give, not only on the Church's need to receive. Third, giving of treasure is not limited to the Church.

*Stewardship is an expression of discipleship, with the power to change how we understand and live our lives. Disciples who practice true Stewardship recognize God as the origin of life, the giver of freedom, the source of all they have and are and will be. They are grateful for what they have received and eager to cultivate their gift out of love for God and one another.*

*Stewardship is a way of life.*

## *Stewardship...*



## *“A Way of Life”*

*Stewardship is giving in gratitude to God for all the blessings we have already received. Those who practice Stewardship grow spiritually.*

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**Question:** *What is Stewardship?*

**Answer:** Stewardship is based on the spiritual principles of the Old Testament and teachings of Jesus. Where stewardship has been implemented, both givers' and receivers' lives have been changed.

It is a way of life. It is a way of thanking God for all His blessings by returning to Him a portion of the time, talent and treasure allotted to us.

Stewardship engenders a spirituality that deepens our relationship with the Lord. Stewardship involves intentional, planned and proportionate giving of time, talent and treasure. The true spirit of stewardship addresses both parishioners as well as parishes themselves.

**Question:** *What difference will stewardship make in my life?*

**Answer:** The difference is the motivation for giving. Stewardship is an extension of our spiritual life where we give in gratitude to God for what we have already received. The difference also is in the result of our giving.

Those who practice stewardship find that they grow spiritually and that their faith is deepened.

**Question:** *What is meant by intentional, planned and proportionate giving?*

**Answer:** Intentional giving means a deliberate and well thought out decision to live out the Christian life in a certain way. Planned giving, means that at the beginning of every year, each Catholic household plans and makes stewardship of time and talent a part of their lifestyle and stewardship of treasure, a part of its own budget. Proportionate giving means a decision is made to give a

certain percentage of one's time and talent and one's income to the church and other community charities.

**Question:** *What is meant by giving of one's time and talent?*

**Answer:** Giving of one's time involves being with God in prayer and worship, sharing our love with family and friends, and volunteering our time in Church and community activities that help others and promote justice. Sharing our talents arises from the fact that God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well, and we have the responsibility to develop those talents for the good of others.

**Question:** *Am I expected to give all of my time, talent and treasure to the Church?*

**Answer:** No, not at all. Most people give of their time and talent as volunteers to community groups in addition to volunteering in the church.

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