

Opening Prayer

Leader: In the name of the Father †...
Jesus Christ is the same

ALL: yesterday, today and forever.

Leader: As we recognize God's presence among us, let us empty our minds of today's problems and concerns, and open our hearts to the experience and grace of this gathering in God's name.

Scripture

2 Corinthians 8:1-7

Reader: A reading from Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians.

We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints—and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you. Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel in this generous undertaking.

The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Silent Reflection

Intercessions

Leader: With confidence in God's care, we place our needs and intentions before the throne of God's love and mercy.

(Please voice any intentions ending with "...we pray to the Lord.")

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Campaign Prayer

Leader: Together we pray...

ALL: O loving and generous God,
source of all life, holiness and goodness,
we thank you for the many gifts you give us
throughout our lifelong journey of faith.

With **faith** in our future,
we commit ourselves to the support of Catholic education
and our own lifelong faith formation.

With **hope** in the here and now,
we ask you to nourish us in your Spirit
so that we may be faithful stewards of your gifts.

With **love**, may the sacrifice of our joyful giving
be an outward sign of the true treasure we hold in Jesus.

O faithful God, keep us always mindful
of the good that can happen
when we allow you to work through us
as one family united in faith.

We entrust our prayer through the intercession
of Mary, the Immaculate Virgin, Mother of God,
and St. John, the Evangelist, patron of our archdiocese,
as we pray through Jesus Christ
who is the same yesterday, today and forever. Amen.

Faith In Our Future Campaign Prayer

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Scripture

Philippians 4:11b-13

Reader: A reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians.

I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Silent Reflection

A Litany of Generosity

Please respond to each invocation:

Gracious God, give us generous hearts.

- To share whatever gift it is that you have given to us...***Gracious ...***
- to acknowledge you as the giver of all good gifts...

- to give without counting the cost... **Gracious God, give us generous hearts.**
- to share without expecting something in return...
- to be wise in the way of caring for ourselves and others...
- to hold all our treasures and values with open hands...
- to have Gospel priorities and to align our life, love, and time in their light...
- to be gracious and cheerful in our giving...
- to recognize the abundance of blessings in each passing day...
- to know the freedom that comes with true generosity...
- to accept our talents, whether many or few, and to use them in service of the Kingdom...
- to grow in giving thanks for everything...
- to be happy with having what we need and to be wise enough to know what it is that we want and do not need...
- to fall more deeply in love with the God of all generosity so that our hearts are strong enough to give away freely whatever is asked...

Campaign Prayer

Leader: With generous hearts we pray...

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we thank you for the many gifts you give us
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During this month of October, we look to our Blessed Mother who is the Model of Stewardship.

The First Joyful Mystery: The Annunciation

Reader: The Angel Gabriel said to Mary, "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus." Mary answered, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." (Luke 1:31,38)

Leader: As Mary accepted with faith her unexpected pregnancy and trusted God to work things out, may we put that same trust in God which is the foundation for *Faith in our Future*. (*Silent pause.*)

Our Father...; 10 Hail Mary...; Glory Be...

Campaign Prayer

Leader: With trusting hearts we pray...

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source of all life, holiness and goodness,
we thank you for the many gifts you give us
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Scripture

Matthew 5:14-16 (NRSV)

Reader: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Silent Reflection

Summary of the Theology of Stewardship

Beginning with the leader, each person to the right reads one of the following statements:

- All that we have and all that we are is a gift from God—our time, our talent, our money and even the gift of life itself.
- God gave us all these many great gifts out of great love.
- God did not intend that we be actual owners of these gifts, using them only for ourselves, or hoarding them, or ignoring our gifts by placing them under a bushel basket.
- Rather, God's purpose was that we would be good stewards, managers, or caretakers of these gifts by using them responsibly, generously and wisely for building up the Kingdom of God.

- The very purpose of our lives is to use our unique set of gifts for:
 - Loving and serving God and neighbor
 - Living our unique and personal calling or vocation from the Lord.
- God desires that we freely choose to use our gifts this way and that our motives be love, thankfulness, and justice as opposed to guilt and fear.
- God promised many blessings for those who generously share their gifts as he asked, including inner peace and happiness, eternal life, and his care and protection.

Campaign Prayer

Leader: Renewing our commitment to live lives of stewardship we pray...

ALL: O loving and generous God,
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 we thank you for the many gifts you give us
 throughout our lifelong journey of faith.

With **faith** in our future,
 we commit ourselves to the support of Catholic education
 and our own lifelong faith formation.

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 we ask you to nourish us in your Spirit
 so that we may be faithful stewards of your gifts.

With **love**, may the sacrifice of our joyful giving
 be an outward sign of the true treasure we hold in Jesus.

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 of the good that can happen
 when we allow you to work through us
 as one family united in faith.

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Scripture

2 Corinthians 9:6-9 (NRSV)

Reader: A reading from Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians.

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written,

“He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever.”

The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Silent Reflection

We Are Workers

Leader: It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view. The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision. We speak now the words of The Most Reverend Oscar Romero, the late Archbishop of San Salvador in El Salvador:

- Side 1: We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction
of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.
Nothing we do is complete,
which is another way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond
us.
- Side 2: No statement says all that should be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection, no pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No program accomplishes the church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.
- Side 1: This is what we are about.
We plant the seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted,
knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.
- Side 2: We cannot do everything,
and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.
This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way,
an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.
- Side 1: We may never see the end results,
but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.
- Side 2: We are workers, not master builders;
ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future that is not our own.
- ALL: Lord, open the eyes of our hearts.

Campaign Prayer

- Leader: Renewing our commitment to a life of stewardship as we pray...
- ALL: O loving and generous God,
source of all life, holiness and goodness,
we thank you for the many gifts you give us
throughout our lifelong journey of faith.
- With **faith** in our future,
we commit ourselves to the support of Catholic education
and our own lifelong faith formation.
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we ask you to nourish us in your Spirit
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Scripture

John 13:34-35 (NRSV)

Reader: A reading from Gospel of John

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Silent Reflection

A Disciple's Response

Leader: As members of the Church, Jesus calls us to be disciples. This has astonishing implications. Let us be attentive to some of the implications we find in our bishops' pastoral letter: Stewardship: A Disciple's Response

Side 1: Mature disciples make a conscious decision to follow Jesus, no matter what the cost.

- Side 2: Christian disciples experience conversion –
life-shaping changes of mind and heart –
and commit their very selves to the Lord.
- Side 1: Jesus’ disciples and Christian stewards recognize God as the origin of
life, giver of freedom, and source of all things.
We are grateful for the gifts we have received
and are eager to use them to show our love for God and for one
another...
- Side 2: Jesus calls us, as his disciples, to a new way of life –
the Christian way of life –
of which stewardship is a part.
- Side 1: But Jesus does not call us as nameless people in a faceless crowd.
He calls us individually, by name.
Each one of us – clergy, religious, lay person;
married, single, adult, child – has a personal vocation.
God intends each one of us to play a unique role in carrying out the
divine plan.
- Side 2: This mission – proclaiming and teaching,
serving and sanctifying – is our task.
It is the personal responsibility of each one of us as stewards of the
Church.
- ALL: We must ask ourselves:
Do we...wish to be disciples of Jesus Christ
and Christian stewards of our world and our Church?

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