

Monthly Reflections

for Parish Leaders

on the Pastoral Planning Pathway

**Gathering Prayer:**

***Leader****:* May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us.
***All****:* Blessed be God forever.
***Leade****r:* We gather in the presence of our God. May our prayers

 be heard and may God’s Word give us strength.

*Select one of the readings from the previous or coming Sunday. Pause briefly after the reading has been proclaimed. Continue your reflection with the following excerpt from Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response.*

Stewardship is an expression of discipleship, with the power to change how we understand and live out our lives. Disciples who practice 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 deeply aware of the truth that ‘The Lord’s are the earth and its fullness; the word and those who dwell in it’ (Ps 24:1). They know themselves to be recipients and caretakers of God’s many gifts. They are grateful for what they have received and eager to cultivate their gifts out of love for God and one another. (SDR, 3)

***Questions for Reflection*:**

What words or phrases strike you most powerfully? Why?

What does this excerpt bring to mind about fostering a spirituality of stewardship in our Family of Parishes?

***Leader****: Let us pray together:*

**L**ord God,
 You alone are the source of every good gift, of the vast array of our universe, and the mystery of each human life.

We praise You and thank You for Your great power

and tender, faithful love.

Everything we are and everything we have are Your gifts,

and after having created us You have given us into the keeping

of Your son, Jesus Christ.

Fill our minds with His truth and our hearts with His love, that in His spirit we may be bonded together into a community of faith,

a parish family, a caring people.

In the name and spirit of Jesus, we commit ourselves to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us, to share our time, our talent, our material and spiritual gifts as an outward sign of the treasure

we hold in Jesus. Amen.