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.*

Becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ leads naturally to the practice of stewardship. These linked realities, discipleship and stewardship, then make up the fabric of a Christian life in which each day is lived in an intimate, personal relationship with the Lord.

Refracted through the prisms of countless individual vocations, this way of life embodies and expresses the one mission of Christ: to do God’s will, to proclaim the Good News of salvation, to heal the afflicted, to care for one’s sisters and brothers, to give life – life to the full – as Jesus did. (SDR, 14)

***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.