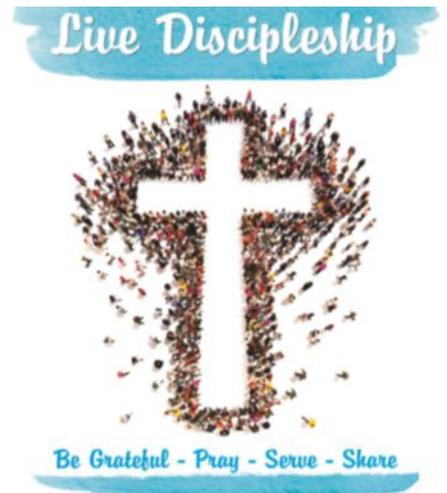


Celebrating Stewardship Sunday

November 12/13, 2016

Theme Background



THEME BACKGROUND

Live Discipleship! What does it mean to “live” anything? If you are challenged to “live” your vocation of marriage or parenthood or to “live” your vocation as a physician or teacher what would that look like? For most of us, it would be a call to live life in an authentic way that is true to the promises we have made. Our daily lives reflect who we profess to be as wives and husbands; moms and dads; physicians and teachers. For disciples of Jesus, it takes on an even deeper meaning.

Loving Jesus and being marked with the cross in our baptism means we are his friends and followers. We are grateful disciples. It is out of this love and this Sacrament that we not only worship on Sunday but we also consciously make decisions to live in a way that follows in Christ’s footsteps. Stewardship is an expression of discipleship. To be a grateful steward of faith-filled prayer, compassionate service and generous sharing means that we pray like Jesus prayed, we serve like Jesus served, and our generosity imitates his. In becoming Christian stewards, we live our sacred baptismal promises.

Live Gratitude!: Jesus was grateful! Jesus our model of “holiness” acknowledges the presence of his Father in his life, demonstrated trust in doing his will, and did both with profound gratitude. One of the most touching moments was when a saddened Jesus raises his dear friend Lazarus from the dead and lifts his eyes and says: *Father, I thank you for hearing me (Jn 11:41).*

Live Prayer!: Jesus was a pray-er! According to the scriptures, he prayed at all the momentous times in his life in the desert, on the mountain, in the morning and evening and in times of great joy and tremendous sorrow. More importantly, he taught us to pray! *When you pray, go to your inner room, close the door and pray to your Father in secret...This is how you are to pray: Our Father in heaven...(Mt 6:6,9).*

Live Service!: Jesus was a servant! Jesus’ modeling of service and directive to his disciples to become servants is found throughout the Gospel but is most memorable at the Last Supper. *Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and dry them with the towel around his waist...So when he had washed their feet [and] put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, “Do you realize what I have done for you?...I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do (Jn 13:5,12,15).*

Live Sharing!: Jesus shared everything! Jesus’ mission on earth was to restore the broken relationship between his Father and humankind. He gave his life on the cross to accomplish it. There is no greater generosity! As followers of Jesus, we are called to imitate Jesus’ generous spirit through the financial blessings placed in our care. The message is there in *The Parable of the Rich Fool (Lk 12:16-21)*, in the *Story of the Poor Woman’s Contribution (Mk 12:41-44)* and in the story of *The Pearl of Great Price (Mt 13:44-49)*. We hear: *Don’t hoard! Put God first! Give from your substance not your leftovers!* Amazing footsteps we are stepping into!