

Stewardship Weekend November 12 & 13, 2016

Live Discipleship



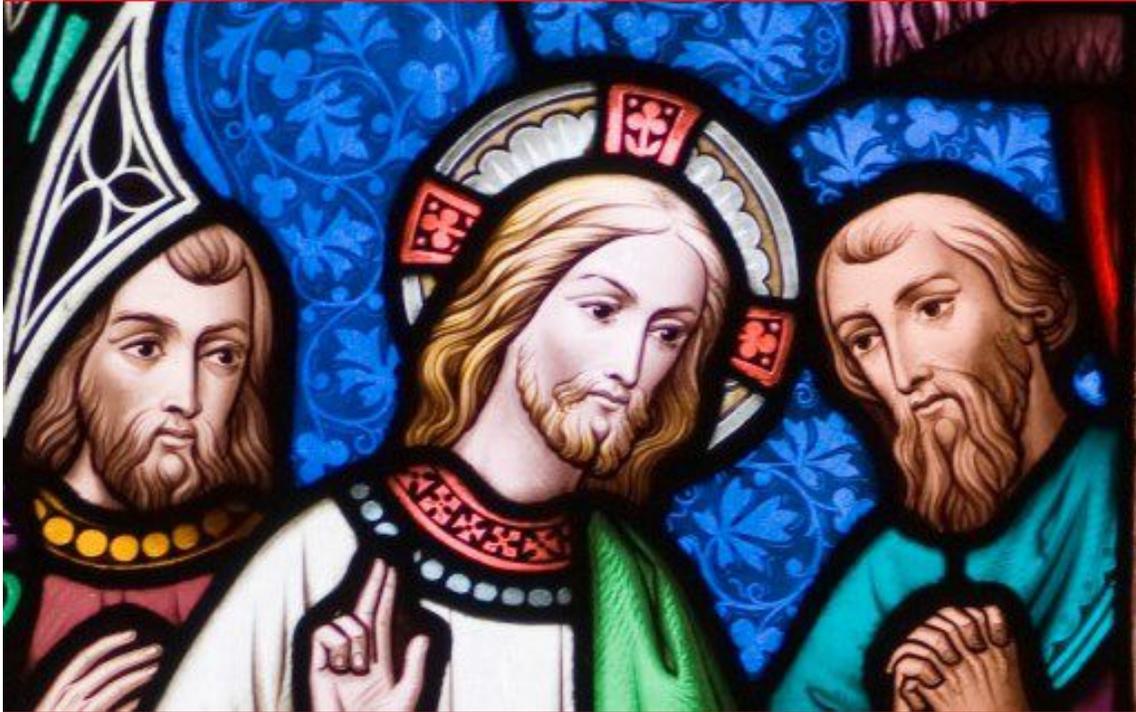
Be Grateful - Pray - Serve - Share



Diocese of
Green Bay

Stewardship and Pastoral Services

DISCIPLES ON THE WAY



*A Missionary Journey into the New Evangelization
for the Diocese of Green Bay*

Celebrating Stewardship Sunday
November 12/13, 2016

Parish Resource Packet

Live Discipleship



Be Grateful - Pray - Serve - Share

A LIFE LIVED IN IMITATION OF JESUS

Welcome to the fifth annual celebration of Stewardship Weekend in the Diocese of Green Bay. This year we will be spotlighting phase two of Bishop Ricken’s Mission Map in *Disciple’s on the Way*. Our 2016 theme, *Live Discipleship: Be Grateful, Pray, Serve, Share* reminds us that our most important identity and model lies in the person of Jesus Christ. Pope Francis says it well when he states: “*Christians are witnesses not to a theory, but to a person: Christ risen and alive, the one savior of all.*” As we grow in our friendship with Jesus, we are inspired to not only live in *admiration* of him but to take the courageous steps to live in *imitation* of him. Stewardship is the lived path of disciples. It is the pathway that is not an option once we say, “I love you, Jesus and I believe.”

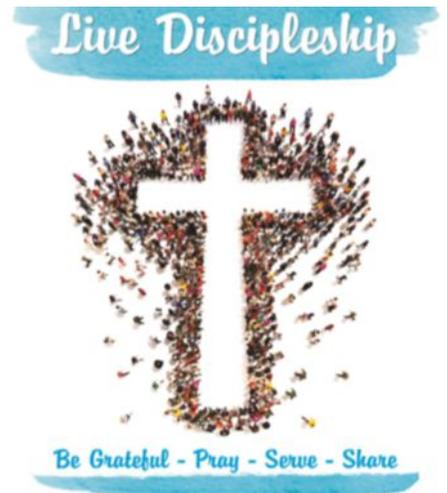
- All resources are available at [www.gbdioc.org/stewardship weekend](http://www.gbdioc.org/stewardship-weekend).
- Items with the ☐ are part of the resource packet which can be downloaded as the complete packet or as individual pieces.
- Items asterisked ** are downloadable as separate entities.

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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).*

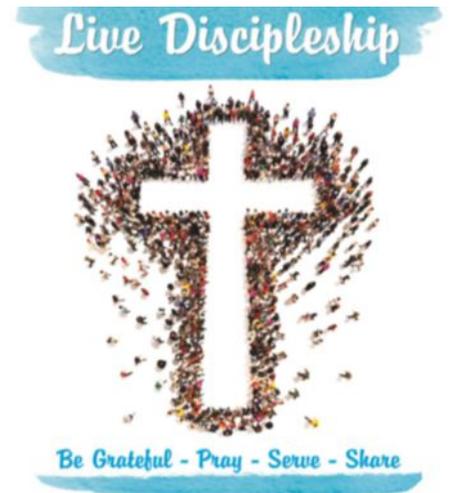
Live Prayer!: Jesus was a pray-er! According to the scriptures, he prayed at all the momentous times in his life in the desert, on the mountain, in the morning and evening and in times of great joy and tremendous sorrow. More importantly, he taught us to pray! *When you pray, go to your inner room, close 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!

Celebrating Stewardship Sunday November 12/13, 2016

Background Resources and Ideas for Liturgy



- All resources are available at www.gbdioc.org/stewardshipweekend.
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- Items asterisked ** are downloadable as separate entities.

BACKGROUND RESOURCES

- ☐ *Live Discipleship*-Stewardship Theme Background Resource
- ** *The 2012 Letter of Proclamation from Bishop Ricken* which states the rationale for the Diocesan wide celebration of Stewardship Sunday.
- ** Stewardship Basics: *Be Not Afraid, (updated 2016)* Session 1 of Six Week Small Group Study on Stewardship
- ** Use “*Stewardship Moments with Bishop Ricken*” four - one minute video clips of Bishop Ricken talking about the various components of stewardship.

Select Appropriate Ideas for Your Parish

As you peruse ideas for celebrating Stewardship Sunday. Note that the simplest ideas are marked by a †.

IDEAS FOR LITURGY

- Create Greeters, Ushers, Liturgical Minister’s nametags with the *Live Discipleship* Design.
- Project the *Live Discipleship* design on a screen in the worship space (if applicable). Contact Mary Ann Otto for graphic at motto@gbdioc.org.
- Create a simple PowerPoint slide show with quotations from children, youth and adults that answer the question: **How do people know you are a follower of Jesus?** Put music with it, if possible. Show prior to Mass or after the Prayer of Thanksgiving (if applicable).
- † • Use *Stewardship Moments with Bishop Ricken* prior to Mass.
- † • Select songs from the Music Suggestion List with *Live Discipleship* emphasis.
- Focus your Homily (helps) on *Live Discipleship* theme.
- Consider additional Prayers of the Faithful.
- Include Lay Witness Talks.
- † • Pray the *Diocesan Stewardship Prayer*.

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Music Suggestions: Songs of Praise & Discipleship

Live Discipleship



Be Grateful - Pray - Serve - Share

All the Earth, Proclaim God's Glory	All That is Hidden
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus	Anthem
As We Gather At Your Table	Center of My Life
Blest Be the Lord	Christ Be Our Light
Celtic Alleluia, Sending Forth	For the Beauty of the Earth
For All the Saints	Glory and Praise to Our God
For You Are My God	Go Make a Difference
Glorious in Majesty	Great Is the Lord
Go Make of All Disciples	Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
God Has Chosen Me	I Am the Vine
Here I Am Lord	In Christ Alone
How Great Thou Art	I Will Choose Christ
I Want to Praise Your Name	I Will Sing, I Will Sing
In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful	Lord, You Give the Great Commission
Now Thank We All Our God	Now Let Your Servant Go
Praise to You, O Christ, Our Savior	Not to Us, Lord
Psalms 66: Let All the Earth	Praise and Thanksgiving
Serving You	Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
Servant Song	Shout for Joy
Table of Plenty	The Eyes and Hands of Christ
Take My Hands	The Spirit Sends Us Forth
The Servant Song	They'll Know We Are Christians
The Summons	Though the Mountains May Fall
We Gather Together	We Are Called
We Will Serve the Lord	We Are Sent Into the World
Whatever You Do	We Are the Light of the World

Celebrating Stewardship Sunday November 12/13, 2016

Homily Helps

Stewardship Weekend Homily Ideas
November 12/13, 2016
Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mal 3:19-20A
Ps 98:5-6, 7-8, 9
2 Thes 3:7-12
Lk 21:5-19

(Download readings at usccb.org/111316.cfm)

Note: if your parish is doing an annual recommitment/renewal this weekend, please tailor your comments to fit the components (gratitude, prayer, service, sharing) you will be highlighting.

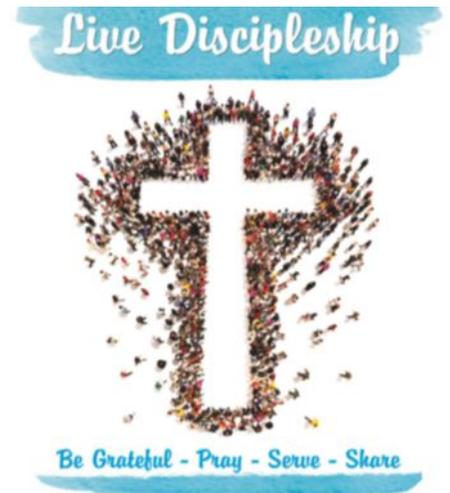
As we encounter stewardship weekend each year, the readings are apocalyptic in nature. The scriptures for the Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time vividly describe the end times without mincing many words. Yet, there are two lines that guide and encourage us as disciples of Jesus during this celebration of Stewardship Weekend.

The first comes from Paul in his letter to the Thessalonians. It states: *Brothers and sisters: You know how one must imitate us. For we did not act in a disorderly way among you, nor did we eat food received free from anyone.* Paul describes what it means to be disorderly as far as not pulling your weight and earning your keep. It was a very basic rule for then and for now.

But what does it mean for you and me to live an “orderly or disorderly” life as a baptized member of our Church in light of what Jesus modeled for us? As professed friends and followers of Jesus, what standards are we held to? To truly *Live Discipleship* we are called to a grateful life of generosity by taking time for faith-filled prayer, using our talents in compassionate service and sharing abundantly from our treasure. This is the ordered life of a follower of Jesus and Christian steward. Each of us needs to assess ourselves. Are we disorderly or orderly in the eyes of Jesus. Are we on a journey and somewhere in the middle?

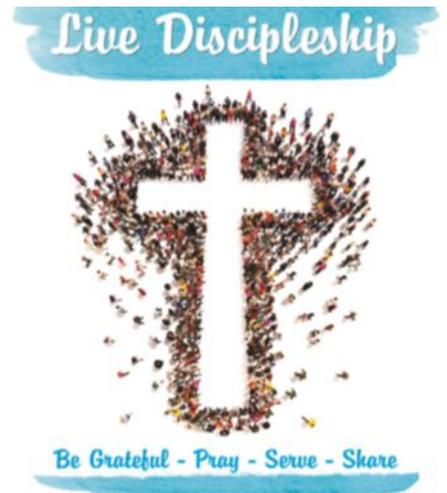
The second line that encourages us as disciples of Jesus, we find at the end of Luke’s Gospel when he states: *By your perseverance you will secure your lives.* Living as Christian stewards in a culture that fosters individualism, consumerism, etc. is not an easy task. We can often be distracted and have to struggle to keep our generous spirit as our time and talents are pulled in many directions.

Jesus encourages us to endure and persevere because just like the Master in the *Parable of the Talents*, God will return. For those who lived their discipleship in an enduring and “ordered” way, the reward will be great.



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Prayers of the Faithful



Samples

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

For all of us and for our brothers and sisters around the diocese as we celebrate Stewardship Weekend, that we may gratefully and joyfully *Live Discipleship* through our faith-filled prayer, compassionate service and generous sharing.

We Pray.

For each of us, that we might truly examine our lives of gratitude, prayer, service and sharing and determine if we have grown and are growing in generosity as a disciple of Jesus.

We Pray.

For each of us, that our joyful living of our discipleship through faith-filled prayer, compassionate service and generous sharing will be a witness of the love of Jesus to all we encounter.

We Pray.

For our parish, that the gifts we generously share will help to serve our members, the local community and beyond, so we can help spread the Good News of Jesus and make disciples.

We Pray.

For each of us, that when we stand before God one day and return the gifts that were given to us that God will bless our perseverance as authentic disciples and Christian stewards.

We Pray

Celebrating Stewardship Sunday November 12/13, 2016

Lay Witness Talks

Live Discipleship



Be Grateful - Pray - Serve - Share

Presented after the Prayer of Thanksgiving

Length: Two Minutes

A parishioner speaking to parishioners is one of the most effective ways to share the stewardship message. A person's or couples' faith story can be an incredible testimony to connect in unique ways with parish members.

This year, the question for your lay witness speaker(s) to address is, "How has living as a disciple of Jesus and Christian steward changed the way they look at the world around them?" Your speakers should approach the topic from one of the components of stewardship: gratitude, faith-filled prayer, compassionate service, or generous sharing. The stewardship committee might want to select the focus.

Sample Outline for Your Consideration

Introduce yourself:

1. Perhaps define stewardship: *Stewardship, for all who profess to believe in Jesus Christ, is an expression of discipleship, where giftedness is acknowledged with gratitude, nurtured through faith-filled prayer, and expressed through compassionate service and generous sharing in the Church, the local community and the world.*
2. State which component you will be speaking about (gratitude, prayer, service, or sharing).
3. Discuss what the tipping point might have been for embracing stewardship as a way of living discipleship.
4. How have the lives of stewards they've known been an example to them?
5. Is there anything from today's readings that spoke to them?
6. Invite others to increase their grateful response to Jesus by becoming more grateful and generous stewards of their time in prayer, their talents in service and their treasure in sharing.

Make it Personal:

Consider using stories, favorite quotations, a favorite saint, etc. Include all areas of life.

Considerations for Selecting Lay Witness Speakers:

- If possible, select different speakers for each Mass selecting someone who fits the demographic of that Mass (young families, retired, etc.).
- Choose someone visible to the community (greeter, choir member, lector, etc.).
- Person does not have to be a well-known public speaker but should feel comfortable reading their talk.
- Be sure to have your lay witness speaker(s) give a "written copy" of their presentation to the Pastor/Parish Director or staff person a week before.
- Allow your speakers to practice in church.
- The celebrant should publically express his gratitude for lay witness speaker(s).

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Live Discipleship



Be Grateful - Pray - Serve - Share

Engaging Staffs, Councils, Committees, Parishioners, Children, Youth, and Families

- All resources are available at www.gbdioc.org/stewardshipweekend.
- Items with the are part of the resource packet which can be downloaded as the complete packet or as individual pieces.
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ENGAGE STAFF, COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

- Make Stewardship Sunday an agenda item from August through September.
- ** Pray together using Committee Prayers focused on the *Live Discipleship* theme.
- ** Place the *Live Discipleship* design on agendas and communications.
- ** Place the stewardship definition on agendas.
- ** Use *Be Not Afraid* Session 1 (Background Information) for reflection and discussion.

ENGAGE YOUR PARISHIONERS

- ** Use the *Live Discipleship* design on your communications.
- Offer (Stewardship) *Little Burgundy Books* <http://littlebooks.us/> to households.
- Offer Bishop Morneau's *Embracing a Generous Life* www.23rdpublications.com.
- Use Bishop Morneau's *Growing in Joy* www.newcitypress.com.
- Use letter of invitation.

ENGAGE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

- Consider using Engaging Schools, Religious Education and Family ideas.
- Consider the Diocesan *Live Discipleship* Excellent Essay Opportunity.

IDEAS FOR CELEBRATION AND FELLOWSHIP

- Encourage your parish bakers to make their best item for fellowship following Masses.
- Offer each family a helium balloon to tie to their mail box in celebration of Stewardship Weekend <http://www.promotionchoice.com> or search for other vendors.
- Create *Live Discipleship* bookmarks/refrigerator magnets to distribute.

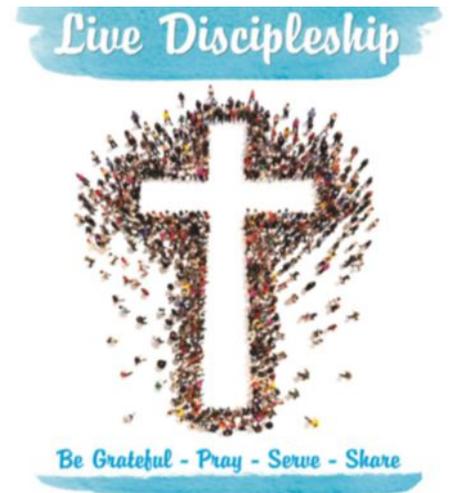
ANNUAL RENEWAL

- If your parish is using Stewardship Weekend as a time to ask parishioners to recommit to any or all of the components of stewardship (prayer, service, sharing) please contact Mary Ann Otto at motto@gbdioc.org for more resources.

For assistance in any area of stewardship, please contact Mary Ann Otto at 1-877-500-3580, ext. 8301 or motto@gbdioc.org.

**Celebrating Stewardship Sunday
November 12/13, 2016**

Pastor/Parish Leader Sample Letter of Invitation



Dear Friends in Christ,

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 those of us who have been baptized, *Live Discipleship* takes on an even deeper meaning. We are being called to live our lives every day as friends and followers of Jesus. Both Scripture and our Church gives us a special pathway to accomplish it. The pathway of Christian stewardship calls us to gratefully and joyfully engage our time in faith-filled prayer, our talents in compassionate service and our treasure in generous sharing.

Live Discipleship: Be Grateful, Pray, Serve, Share, is the theme for Stewardship Weekend. In conjunction with parishes in the Diocese of Green Bay, we will be celebrating November 12/13, 2016. We will have the opportunity to celebrate where we are on our stewardship journey, as well as to reflect and challenge ourselves to grow as committed disciples of Jesus.

I ask that each of you join in the wonderful celebration of Stewardship Weekend. Our parish staff, pastoral council and stewardship committee members have recommended that we celebrate *Live Discipleship- Be Grateful, Pray, Serve, Share* in the following manner:

- _____
- _____
- _____

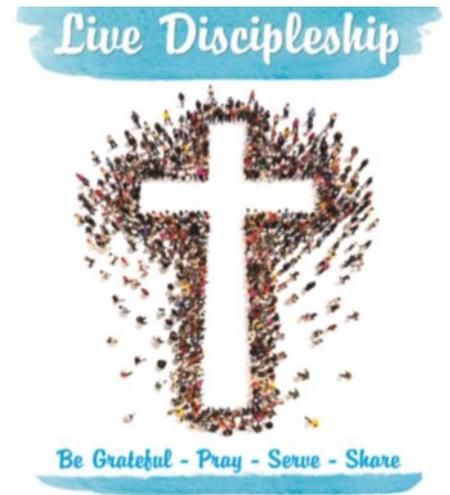
Please join us for all the activities as we celebrate God’s unending love for us. If you would like to help with any the wonderful activities, please call _____.

Thank you for all that you are and all the ways you *Live Discipleship* in our parish.

In Jesus’ Name,

Celebrating Stewardship Sunday November 12/13, 2016

Engaging Schools, Religious Education and Families



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Catechist Preparation:

Make stewardship weekend an agenda item at a staff/team meeting using some of the prior items for resources:

- Live Discipleship* Stewardship Theme Background Resource.
- ** Use the 2012 Letter of Proclamation from Bishop Ricken which states the rationale for the Diocesan wide celebration of Stewardship Sunday.
- ** Stewardship Basics: *Be Not Afraid*, Session 1 of Six Week Small Group Study on Stewardship.
- ** “Stewardship Moments with Bishop Ricken” - four - one minute video clips of Bishop Ricken.
- ** Use Committee Prayers available on the diocesan website .

Preparing Children-Youth

- Be sure to have an age-appropriate understanding of stewardship and the theme for this year’s celebration of Stewardship Weekend.
- Display the *Live Discipleship-Be Grateful, Pray Serve, Share!* image and the scripture verse *Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father, (Mt. 5:16)* or any scripture passage that promotes the message of “Come Follow Me”, discipleship, etc.
- Begin each class/session by reciting the verse out loud and sharing how they followed Jesus or lived like Jesus and let their light shine through gratitude, prayer, service, and sharing since your last meeting.
- Create a parish bulletin board with pictures of your parishioners living/being Jesus in the world.
- Check out the Diocesan Excellent Essay Opportunity for children, youth, and households

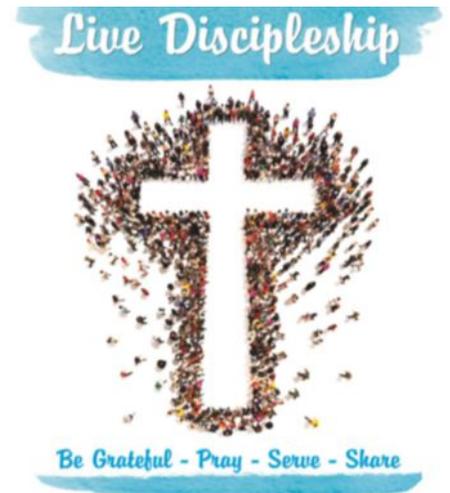
Note: The following are suggestions that can be adapted in any way or any grade level.

Kindergarten –Grade 5

- *Live Discipleship: Activity Calendar:* Using input from the children, have each grade level create a monthly calendar of activities for their class. Each month, choose a way they will follow Jesus or be like Jesus through an activity of gratitude, prayer, service or sharing.
- Read bible stories about Jesus. Ask the children to tell you how they hear Jesus expressing gratitude, praying, serving or sharing.
- Ask children to bring books or poems from home on sharing or serving. Read and have children share how it fits into the theme.
- Have older children create skits about the theme and perform for younger children.
- Talk about saints and how they followed Jesus and did what he did.

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Engaging Schools, Religious Education and Families (cont.)



Grades 6-8

- All grades could create and perform a skit or shadow skit that would illustrate the theme. Have a performance time with fellowship for the parents/guardians.
- **Grade 6:** *Live Discipleship* Prayer Service: Youth create and lead a prayer service for others. Be creative using music and technology, if possible.
- **Grade 7:** *Live Discipleship* Service Project: Youth create and invite younger children to participate in a local service project.
- **Grade 8:** *Live Discipleship* Sharing Project: Ask youth to create and lead others in an opportunity to share with those in need i.e. hike for hunger, diaper, food, “undies,” collection, etc. Explore opportunities and create announcements and promotions.

High School-Youth

- Ask groups of teens to create an oversized storybook or a PowerPoint to read to others based on the theme *Live Discipleship*. They need to create the story and do the illustrations.
- *Live Discipleship* Resumes: Ask youth to work in small groups to write a resume that describes someone who lives gratitude, prayer, service and/or sharing.
- Ask youth to be creative in putting together a list of ten ways youth can gratefully “step up” their time in prayer, the use of their talents in service, and the generous sharing of their treasure. Put the list on your website, in the newsletter and/or bulletin.

Families

- Gather families for a *Live Discipleship* Service Day. They select the service that suits the age of their family. You meet prior to everyone going out for fellowship and prayer and again when you return to share stories and a meal.
- Families create a collage of memories that demonstrate how they have worshipped Jesus through prayer, service and sharing
- Families keep a simple *Live Discipleship* journal or calendar to document their experiences.
- Families make a plan to *Live Discipleship* and “step up” their gratitude, prayer, service or sharing in some way.

For assistance in any area of stewardship, please contact Mary Ann Otto at (920) 272-8301 or 1-877-500-3580, ext. 8301 or motto@gbdioc.org

Celebrating Stewardship Sunday
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Excellent Essay Opportunity

Live Discipleship



Be Grateful - Pray - Serve - Share

WHAT: The Department of Stewardship and Pastoral Services is sponsoring an *Excellent Essay Opportunity* for children, youth and families across the Diocese of Green Bay in celebration of **Stewardship Sunday November 12/13, 2016.**

SPECIAL RECOGNITION: The top nine essays chosen (three in each category) will be printed in the *Compass* on November 9, 2016.

EXCELLENT IDEA: Have families, youth, children participating in this event present their essays after the Prayer of Thanksgiving at Mass or print them in your bulletin, newsletter or on your website to keep the message alive!

ESSAY DIRECTIONS FOR HOUSEHOLDS, YOUTH, CHILDREN

Each group has a specific question to answer concerning how they actively follow Jesus as a disciple and steward. **Please use one or more examples from at least of the following components of prayer, service, and/or sharing.**

- If you are a family writing together please write 250 words. **What is one of the most important ways others would recognize that you are a family who lives as a friend and follower of Jesus?**
- If you are middle school or high school youth, please write 250 words. **What is your favorite way of modeling how Jesus lived in your own life? Why?**
- If you are in grades 3-5, please write 200 words. **In what ways do you want to live like Jesus? Why?**

DEADLINE: All entries must be received by the Diocese no later than October 14, 2016 to be considered.

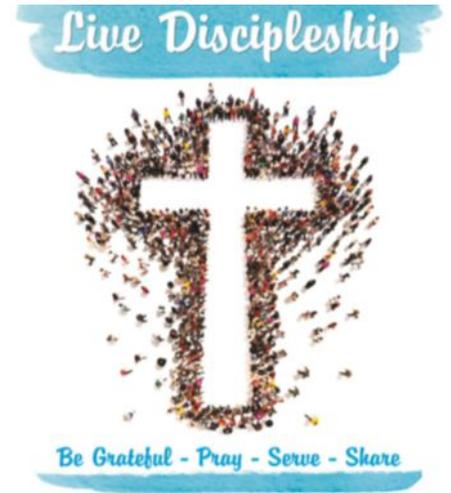
HOW: Have each participant fill out the brief application found below and staple their entry to it. This will help us identify the parish and also make sure we have parental permission to print the essay if it is selected. If Parishes/Schools have multiple entries, the DRE /Principal should select the top three entries from their group to send to the diocese. All entries need to be received at the diocese by October 14, 2016 for consideration.

SEND TO: Mary Ann Otto, Stewardship and Special Project Director, Diocese of Green Bay, PO Box 23825, Green Bay, WI 54305-3825.

Questions: Please contact Mary Ann Otto at (920) 272-8301 or 1-877-500-3580, ext. 8301 or motto@gbdioc.org.

**Celebrating Stewardship Sunday
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Excellent Essay Opportunity Application



Attach to Entry

(Please enter info for all family members if writing a family essay)

Name (child or youth or family members)

Parish _____

School _____ **Grade** _____

Family Phone _____

Email _____

If selected, I give permission for this entry to be printed in the Compass on November 9, 2016 with the name and parish/school of my child/family.

Parent or Guardian Signature

mail to: Mary Ann Otto,
Stewardship and Special Project Director,
Diocese of Green Bay,
PO Box 23825, Green Bay, WI 54305-3825

