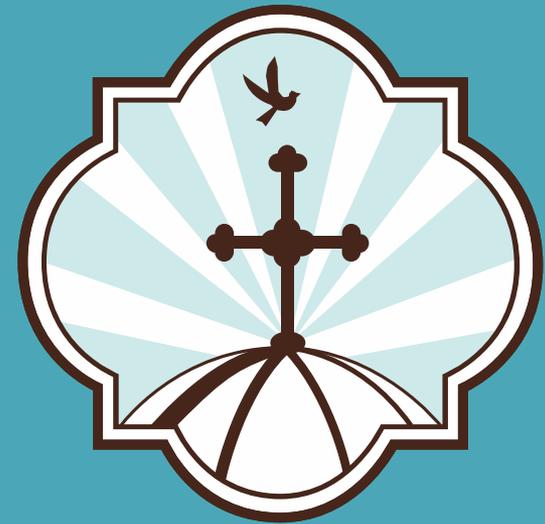


# STEWARDSHIP A DISCIPLE'S RESPONSE

AS EACH ONE HAS RECEIVED A GIFT, USE  
IT TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER AS GOOD STEWARDS  
OF GOD'S VARIED GRACE. - 1 PETER 4:10



Saint William  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

# VISION

Our vision is to be a parish community of Disciples of Christ who dedicate our temporal (Time, Talent, Treasure) and spiritual gifts to fulfill our vocations, serving God and one another according to His will.

“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” 1 Pt. 4:10, Bishops’ Letter on Stewardship



Saint William  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

# MISSION

**To serve as God's instrument in the parish to increase understanding of the call to stewardship; to facilitate discernment of God's will in fulfilling the call; and to nourish and grow ministries and groups in our parish community that provide the opportunity to fulfill the stewardship call.**

**“Each one, as a good manager of God's different gifts, much use for the good of others the special gift he has received from God.” Bishop's Letter on Stewardship.**



**Saint William**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

# DISCIPLESHIP

**Requires the surrender of ourselves through grace and choice to Jesus Christ:  
“Mature disciples make a conscious, firm, decision, carried out in action,  
to be followers of Jesus Christ no matter the cost to themselves.”**

**A disciple is both learner and a companion of Jesus Christ, as well as one open to the movement of the Holy Spirit towards a gracious generosity of heart. The authentic disciple regards all he or she is and possesses as gifts and blessings with others for the sake of the kingdom of God.**

**Thus, *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response* describes conversion as “committing one’s very self to the Lord.”**

**Individuals compose collectively the Body of Christ; therefore, disciples of Jesus Christ are stewards of the Church because stewardship is the personal responsibility of each one of the baptized.**

“To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.”  
-1 Cor 12:7



Saint William  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

# EXAMPLES OF THE WORKS, SERVICES, AND MINISTRIES OF GOOD STEWARDSHIP



Saint William  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Evangelization and witness to the Gospel
- Catechesis and faith formation
- Parent stewardship of the domestic church
- Stewardship of simplicity of life
- Stewardship for ecology of the globe
- Lay witness in the marketplace and institutions
- Financial accountability in personal and parochial affairs

# THE CALL

THE CHRISTIAN VOCATION IS ESSENTIALLY A CALL TO BE A DISCIPLE OF JESUS.

**As Christians, we are called to be good stewards of the personal vocations we receive. Each of us must discern, accept, and live out joyfully and generously the commitments, responsibilities, and roles to which God calls him or her.**

**Jesus not only calls people to him but also forms them and send them out in his service (cf. Mt 10:5ff.; Mk 6:7ff.; Lk 9:1ff.). Being sent on a mission is a consequence of being a disciple. Whoever wants to follow Christ will have much work to do on his behalf-announcing the Good News and serving others as Jesus did.**



Saint William  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

# JESUS' WAY

JESUS IS THE SUPREME TEACHER OF CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

**Jesus' mission is to restore to good order the created household of God which sin has disrupted.**

**Jesus perfects this task and continues to call disciples. He empowers them to collaborate with him in the work of redemption for themselves and on behalf of others.**

**An *oikonomos* or steward is one to whom the owner of a household turns over responsibility for caring for the property, managing affairs, making resources yield as much as possible, and sharing the resources with others. The position involves trust and accountability.**



Saint William  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

# THE STEWARD'S REWARD

All temporal and spiritual goods are created by and come from God.



Saint William  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

**To be a Christian disciple is a rewarding way of life, a way of companionship with Jesus, and the practice of stewardship as a part of it is itself a source of deep joy. Those who live this way are happy people who have found the meaning and purpose of living.**

**There is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age: houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come.**

**-Mk 10:29-30**

# LIVING AS A STEWARD

**Ecological stewardship means cultivating a heightened sense of human interdependence and solidarity.**

**Stewardship of the world is expressed by jubilant appreciation of nature, whose God-given beauty not even exploitation and abuse have destroyed.**

**Life as a Christian steward also requires continued involvement in the human vocation to cultivate material creation. This productivity embraces art, scholarship, science, and technology, as well as business and trade, physical labor, skilled work of all kinds, and serving others.**

**Everyone has some natural responsibility for a portion of the world and an obligation in caring for it to acknowledge God's dominion.**



**Saint William**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another.

-John 15:16-17

# STEWARDS OF THE CHURCH

Through personal participation in and support of the Church's mission of proclaiming and teaching, serving and sanctifying.



Saint William  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Participation takes different forms according to people's different gifts and offices, but there is a fundamental obligation arising from the sacrament of Baptism (cf. Pope John Paul II, *Christifideles Laici*, no 15): that people place their gifts, their resources—their selves—at God's service in and through the Church.**

**Jesus is the model. Even though his perfect self-emptying is unique, it is within the power of disciples, and a duty, that they be generous stewards of the Church, giving freely of their time, talent, and treasure.**

# TO BE A CHRISTIAN STEWARD

AS EACH ONE HAS RECEIVED A GIFT, USE  
IT TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER AS GOOD STEWARDS  
OF GOD'S VARIED GRACE. - 1 PETER 4:10

# DISCIPLES AS STEWARDS

**Implications of being a disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ:**

- Mature disciples make a conscious decision to follow Jesus, no matter what the cost.**
- Christian disciples experience conversion—life-shaping changes of mind and heart—and commit their very selves to the Lord.**
- Christian stewards respond in a particular way to the call to be a disciple. Stewardship has the power to shape and mold our understanding of our lives and the way in which we live.**



**Saint William**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another.

-John 15:16-17

# STEWARDS OF CREATION

- Joyful appreciation for the God-given beauty and wonder of nature
- Protection and preservation of the environment, which would be the stewardship of ecological concern
- Respect for human life—shielding life from threat and assault, doing everything that can be done to enhance this gift and make life flourish
- Development of this world through noble human effort—physical labor, the trades and professions, the arts and sciences. We call such effort “work.”



# STEWARDS OF CREATION

- Joyful appreciation for the God-given beauty and wonder of nature
- Protection and preservation of the environment, which would be the stewardship of ecological concern
- Respect for human life—shielding life from threat and assault, doing everything that can be done to enhance this gift and make life flourish
- Development of this world through noble human effort—physical labor, the trades and professions, the arts and sciences. We call such effort “work.”



# STEWARDS OF VOCATION

**Jesus calls us, as his disciples, to a new way of life—the Christian way of life—of which stewardship is part. But Jesus does not call us 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.**

**The challenge, then, is to understand our role—our vocation—and to respond generously to this call from God. Christian vocation entails the practice of stewardship. In addition, Christ calls each of us to be stewards of our personal vocations, which we receive from God.**



**Saint William**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

# A STEWARD'S WAY

The life of a Christian steward models the life of Jesus



Saint William  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

It is challenging and even difficult, in many respect, yet intense joy comes to those who take the risk to live as Christian stewards. Women and men who seek to live as stewards learn that “all things work for good for those who love God” (Rom 8:28).

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. As the Mother of Christ, she lived her ministry in a spirit of fidelity and service; she responded generously to the call.

We must ask ourselves: Do we also wish to be disciples of Jesus Christ and Christian stewards of our world and our church?

The Spirit shows us the way.

Stewardship is a part of that journey.

# WORKS CITED

**Most of the writing material in this presentation can be found at the following:**

***Stewardship: A Disciple's Response.* Washington, D.C.: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2002.**



**Saint William**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH