

STEWARDSHIP

Article 5 of 8

Today we focus on the most important of the three T's in the steward's response to God's generous gifts. And no, the answer is not treasure. The answer is time. One of the three pillars of the stewardship way of life is giving some of our time back to God. In the context of stewardship, time is synonymous with prayer. Moreover, time given to God, i.e., prayer, is the most important component of the stewardship way of life. Without spending time with God in prayer, the gifts of treasure and talent are perfunctory expressions of the stewardship way of life. In other words, the act of giving to God from one's treasure and talents is devoid of spiritual significance. Again this is why the most important component of the stewardship way of life is prayer.

What does this mean for us? It means that successful stewardship depends upon a strong life of prayer, it means that without prayer our gifts will lack the essential quality of love of God. Our gifts of treasure and talent will be motivated by more self serving ends, e.g., so that my child is able to attend St. Ambrose School. Prayer as the life-blood of the stewardship way of life means that we must be committed to a life of prayer.

The commitment to a life of prayer is not very easy in an age of hyperactivity. All of us are extremely busy with the demands of life. Consequently, it becomes very difficult to carve out significant time to give to the Lord in prayer. I truly believe that we must schedule our daily prayer just as we schedule other appointments in our day. Moreover, we must take the appointment with the Lord in prayer at least as serious as the other commitments during our day.

Where do we start? Let me suggest a commitment that will make a significant difference in the way that you follow Jesus in the stewardship way of life. How about committing to a Holy Hour in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament? Once a week, or every other week, or even once a month, commit and schedule 1 hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Besides praying here at St. Ambrose, the Perpetual Adoration Chapel at St. Anthony's Motherhouse is a beautiful holy space that local Catholics have visited in prayer for many years. The prayer time will become one hour that you will not regret.

In Christ's Love

Fr. Steve