

Stewardship of treasure

It involves appreciating and wisely using of God's blessings, growing wealth and returning it to God with increase through serving others and focusing on building treasure in heaven, not just earthly wealth. As we reflect on this, let us ask ourselves these pertinent questions: Where is my treasure? What drives my life? Do I prioritize material possessions or priceless values like love and forgiveness? Am I generous with my wealth as God wants? Do I trust God's abundance and provision?

Think of banker and a farmer walking through a parking lot, conversing. The farmer heard a cricket and asked the banker if he heard it too, but he didn't. The banker followed the farmer's lead, and they found the cricket. Later, the banker heard a coin and asked the farmer if he heard it, but he didn't. The farmer followed the banker's lead, and they found the coin. Thus, this exemplifies how people can have contrasting values and priorities in life.

These questions also come in mind:

Am I generously using my wealth in a way that aligns with God's desires? Do I claim to trust in God's provision, yet struggle to prioritize worship by reducing my work hours or to tithe at church due to fear of not meeting my financial obligations?

Remember, God is a God of abundance, always able to provide for His children without running out of resources. He won't say, 'Sorry, I've already given everything to your neighbors, come back later.' God's abundance is fully available to each of us, but we it is very important that we trust Him without demanding proof of how He will provide.

We must trust in God's abundance and generosity, rather than relying on our own resources and fears.

The journey of faith begins with prayer, seeking to deepen our trust in God. Giving back is key to receiving His blessings. Start with a manageable percentage of your resources and grow from there. It is recommended that half of our donation go to our parish and the remaining half go to our favorite charities within our Church and local community. The latter category may include Catholic school tuition, diocesan collections, the missions, local appeals for the needy, and other worthy causes. Give at a frequency that works for you - weekly, monthly, or yearly.

Remember that giving to God and His projects brings numerous benefits such as:

Deeper intimacy with God: Giving expresses love for God and draws us closer to Him.

Building strong character: Selfless giving helps build a strong, God-pleasing character, overcoming our natural selfishness.

Becoming like Jesus: Giving helps us imitate God's ways and become more like His Son. An unknown author highlights "that giving is not just about raising funds, but about transforming people into the likeness of Jesus."

Heavenly and earthly favors: Selfless giving brings joy to others, leads to a sense of purpose and fulfillment, and contributes to good health and long life. It also allows us to experience God's kingdom on earth and prepares us for eternal life with Him.

Remember that generosity is a key to unlocking heavenly treasure and receiving more blessings from God.

God bless you.