

Stewardship of Our Gifts

August & September

2011

*To share our knowledge,
talent, love, and experience
to serve others*

BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP

A WAY OF LIFE

Resource Kit
for
Stewardship of Our Gifts

This resource kit can be utilized in any setting by individuals, couples, families, or small groups. Some suggestions

1. Begin by praying the Stewardship Prayer in this packet.
2. Read the definition, summary statement and key messages that explain the theme for the month.
3. Choose one scripture reading that is suggested, read and discuss or reflect upon it.
4. Use the reflection questions to discern how you might be called to live out the theme.
5. Decide on a plan of action and perhaps use several of the resources suggested within this packet to help increase your understanding of *Stewardship of Our Gifts*.
6. Use the prayer intentions and one of the closing prayers to end your session.

A PRAYER

Lord,
your love and generosity toward us,
your children, are beyond all
that we could imagine.

Help us always to be mindful
that all that we have comes from you.

Teach us to be respectful stewards,
caring for your blessings,
and using the specific gifts you give to
each of us to build up your body,
the church—in our parish, homes, and
families—
and in our community so that all that we
do will honor you.

We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus.

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STEWARDSHIP OF OUR GIFTS OVERVIEW

Definition: to share our knowledge, talent, love and experience to serve others. We are only here on earth to use those gifts to do God's work.

Summary Statement:

All that we have and all that we are comes from God. This includes spiritual gifts as well as our interests, talents, skills and abilities. Stewardship of Our Gifts refers to how we employ all of this richness to strengthen each other and the community.

Key Messages:

Everyone possesses useful gifts and these gifts are infused and sanctified at Baptism.

Each of us is invited to prayerfully and thoughtfully assess our talents/gifts/skills.

We need to consider the needs of our parish and community and engage in a ministry that is compatible with the gifts we can offer.

We are called to help each other claim our gifts and exercise them in ministry together.

Through reflection and practice, we learn to use our gifts more effectively.

WHAT ARE “SPIRITUAL” GIFTS?

The apostle Paul addressed the subject of spiritual gifts in three main sections of scripture: Romans 12, I Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4. Saint Peter also verifies their existence in I Peter 4:10.

These passages teach us that all Christians have been given at least one spiritual gift. We do not choose our gifts. The Holy spirit bestows them upon us through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

Not all of the gifts identified in scripture are listed on the following pages. We have omitted the spectacular gifts (speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues, prophecy) and some of the non-spectacular gifts (martyrdom, celibacy, poverty). Although these are valid gifts, they are not commonly utilized in the mainstream of parish life.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS—DEFINITIONS

Administration—the special ability to organize the information, events, people or material to accomplish a project or fulfill a purpose. Focus is on the big picture and teamwork. Able to delegate as needed. Scripture references: Acts 6:1-7; Romans 12:8; I Corinthians 12:28,

Artistry— the special ability to create artistic expressions that produce a spiritual response of strength and inspiration. These expressions include visual as well as performance art and working with a variety of materials. Scripture references: Exodus 31:1-11, Psalm 149:3a

Craftsmanship—the special ability to create, build, maintain, or repair items. Scripture reference: Exodus 28.

Discipleship—the special ability to witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ by leading and inspiring others to follow Christ. By sharing Scripture and Church teachings, the Christian with this gift helps others to grow in their spirituality. Scripture references: Acts 2:36-40; Acts 8:26-40; Ephesians 4:11-16.

Discernment - the special ability to know whether a certain behavior or teaching is from God; to clearly distinguish between truth and error, good and evil. A Christian with this gift is able to see through to the core of a situation and generate solutions. Scripture references: I Corinthians 2:9-16; I Corinthians 12:10; Acts 8:9-24.

Faith - the special ability to trust in God and God's Word, to perceive and follow the Holy Spirit's leading without indication of where it might lead. Individuals with this gift possess extraordinary confidence in God's promises, power and presence even in the most adverse circumstances. Scripture references: Genesis 12:1-4; Matthew 8:5-16; Mark 5:25-34; I Corinthians 12:9; I Thessalonians 1:7-10; I Thessalonians 7:8; Hebrews 11

Giving - the special ability which enables Christians to respond to God's blessings by sharing their material blessings with exceptional willingness, cheerfulness, and generosity. Scripture references: Luke 21:1-4; Romans 12:3-8; II Corinthians 8; 9:6-15

Healing - the special ability to be used by God to bring about a person's healing – physical, emotional, mental, or spiritual. People with the true gift of healing are generally good listeners. Scripture references: Luke 9:1-2; Acts 28:7-9; I Corinthians 12:7-9; James 5:13-16

Hospitality - the special ability to warmly welcome people, even strangers, as a means of serving those in need of food, lodging or belonging. Scripture references: Genesis 18:1-8; Luke 10:38; Acts 16:11-15; Romans 12:13; I Peter 4:9-10; Hebrews 13:2

Intercession - the special ability to consistently pray on behalf of and for others with the certainty that prayers are heard and answered according to what God knows is best for us. Scripture references: Luke 11:1-10; I Timothy 2:1-2

Knowledge - the special ability to learn, understand, analyze and uncover new insights with regard to Church teaching, Scripture and faith and then apply these insights to specific situations in everyday life. Scripture reference: I Corinthians 12:7-8

Leadership - the special ability to motivate, coordinate and direct others, with care and diligence, to get involved in the accomplishment of community goals and objectives. Scripture references: Exodus 18:13-26; Luke 22:24-27; John 21:15-17; II Timothy 4:1-5

Mercy/Compassion - the special ability to feel deeply for those in physical, spiritual or emotional need and act to meet those needs. Scripture references: Matthew 25:34-36; Luke 10:30-37; I Corinthians 12: 6,8; III John 5-8

Missionary/Apostleship - the special ability to cross geographic, cultural, or economic barriers to bear witness to Christ's teachings through words and actions. Individuals with this gift find joy in working with minorities, people of other countries, or those with other distinct cultural differences. Scripture references: Acts 8:26-38; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23; 1 Corinthians 12:28-29; Galatians 2:8-10; Ephesians 4:7, 11

Music - the special ability to express personal faith and provide inspiration and comfort through the playing of a musical instrument, singing, or dancing. Scripture references: Psalms 33:1-5; 96:1-9; 100:1-2; 149:1-3; 150; 1 Corinthians 14:26

Pastoral Leadership - the special confidence, motivation, ability and compassion to provide spiritual leadership and direction for individuals or groups of Christians. Scripture references: Ephesians 4:7-11; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; 4:12-16; 1 Peter 5:1-4

Service Often called the gift of helps, the special ability to see what needs to be done and do it. People with this gift like to work behind the scenes, helping others and meeting needs. Scripture references: Luke 23:50-54; Acts 6:2-6; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 1 Peter 4:11

Teaching - the special ability to clearly explain the truths of the Church, Scripture and faith so that others might know and have a relationship with God. Scripture references: Acts 18:24-28; Romans 12:7; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 3:16

Wisdom - the special ability to use knowledge in a practical way. Individuals with this gift can sort through diverse sets of information to determine the best option for the individual or community in daily life. Scripture references: 1 Corinthians 2:6-13; 12:7-8; James 3:13-18

Writing: The ability to express one's faith in written form so as to uplift, instruct and strengthen others. Scripture references: 1 John 2:1-17; 1 Timothy 3:14-16

DISCOVER YOUR GIFTS

You may wonder what gifts the Spirit has allotted to you.

A number of inventories have been developed in recent years, one of which The Basilica has made available online!

The **Gifts Survey** takes about 20 minutes and provides immediate feedback of your three strongest spiritual gifts along with suggested opportunities for sharing your particular gifts.

The results are confidential; The Basilica does not capture or store the results of your survey.

To take the survey, find a quiet, unhurried time and log on to <http://www.mary.org/giftsurvey>.

The results may surprise you, puzzle you, or confirm what you already know about yourself. To further explore your giftedness, talk with friends or family members who know

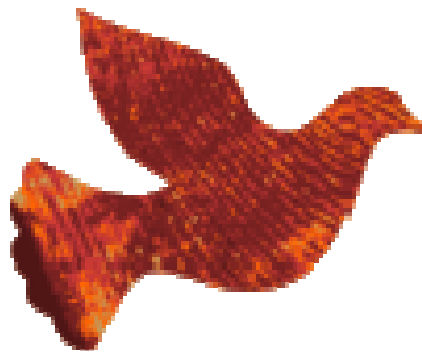
BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION OR DISCUSSION

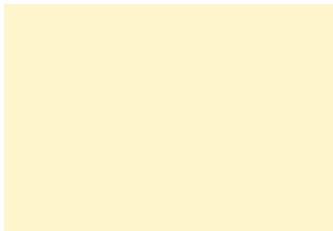
Ask yourself or companions these questions on the ride home, gathered around the table or in your small group.

1. How do I see myself as a disciple of Jesus?
2. What is a gift that I have that no one has ever asked me to share?
3. When did I experience using one of my gifts to accomplish something or interact with someone this week? How did I feel using that gift?
4. For which of my gifts am I most grateful?



Did you know????

Volunteers contribute about 80,000 hours each year to Basilica ministries, programs, and events.



The vast majority of Basilica volunteers (80%) are motivated to do so by their faith.*

About 240 liturgical ministers serve at the six masses each weekend.



We are involved!
50% volunteer in Basilica programs.
71 % volunteer in the broader community.*

*Data taken from a survey conducted in November - December 2010. We received 906 responses; 92% of respondents indicated they are members of the parish.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

(Please respond: Lord, hear our prayer.)

That we may encourage each other in calling forth our gifts...we pray to the Lord...

That God might open us up to be vehicles through which He works...we pray to the Lord...

That my gifts may become more apparent to me...we pray to the Lord...

That I may discover new ways to use my gifts...we pray to the Lord...

That the gifts of our child may be revealed to him or her...we pray to the Lord...

That the gifts of our partner/spouse may be revealed to him or her...we pray to the Lord...

That we will have faith in those times when using our gifts might seem frightening or risky...we pray to the Lord...

That we may always remember that all of our gifts come from God...we pray to the Lord...

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God. Whoever serves is to do so as one serving by the strength which God supplies.

I Peter 4:10-11

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

I Corinthians 12:4-7

Now instead of the spirit of the world, we have received the Spirit that comes from God, to teach us to understand the gifts that he has given us.

I Corinthians 2:12

That is why I am reminding you now to fan into a flame the gift that God gave you when I laid my hands upon you. God's gift was not a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power, and love, and self-control.

II Timothy 1:6-7

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

MYERS-BRIGGS ASSESSMENT & YOUR JOB SEARCH

Tuesday, August 23, 7:00 pm

Discover your personality type and how to leverage it in your career & life. Upon registration, instructions for taking the MBTI will be emailed; assessment must be completed by August 15. Register soon—space is limited.

TAKE YOUR TALENTS TO WORK

Tuesday, August 30, 7:00 pm

Highly sought-after, international speaker Catherine Byers Breet will teach you how to define the job that's aligns with your gifts, and how to use your gifts to seek and get the job you want—faster and easier.

Both of these workshops are sponsored by The Basilica's Employment Ministry and are free, but **pre-registration is required.**

Sign up at www.mary.org.

Select Events > Lectures and Workshops > Employment Ministry Workshops.

For more information, contact Janet at 612-317-3508.

SONG OF HOPE 9/11 COMMEMORATIVE CONCERT Saturday, September 10, 8:00 pm Basilica Church

Several local faith communities will pool their talents to help grieve, remember, and offer a vision of hope for the future. The concert will include music, readings, songs and prayers from Christian, Jewish and Muslim traditions.



“YIELD FROM THE FIELD” MINISTRY FAIR
Sunday, September 18, 10:30am-1:30pm
Basilica East Lawn & Plaza

Celebrate the rich harvest of our community’s many ministries made possible by hundreds of volunteer ministers. We have a “bumper crop” of impact and results in all areas: Liturgy, Learning, Life, Development, and Administration. Come ready to interact! (The ministry fair is held in conjunction with the annual parish picnic, so you can have lunch, too).



STEWARDSHIP OF OUR GIFTS
PLEDGE WEEKEND
September 24 & 25 at all Liturgies
2nd Collection

Just as we ask you to prayerfully consider sharing your financial resources with The Basilica, we also invite you to share your own selves—your spiritual gifts, knowledge, talent, love, and experience—with our community.

Pledge forms will be available in the pews on these dates. Prior to September 24, you may access the pledge form at www.mary.org.

Each of you brings unique gifts to this community and we need all of them to carry on Christ’s work in this place.

Thank you!

RESOURCES FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING

Books/Articles:

A Life at Work: The Joy of Discovering What You Were Born To Do, Thomas Moore, 2008

Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts: The Easy-to-Use, Self-Guided Questionnaire That Helps You To Identify and Undersand Your Various God-Given Spiritual Gifts, C. Peter Wagner, 2010

The Enneagram: A Christian Perspective, Richard Rohr & Andreas Ebert, 2001

Life Keys: Discover Who You Are, Kise, Stark, & Hirsch, 2005

Living Your Strengths: Discover Your God-Given Talents and Inspire Your Community, Winseman, Clifton, & Liesveld, 2004

The Spirit: Source of Spiritual Gifts, Pope John Paul II

Stewardship: A Disciple's Response - US Bishops Pastoral on Stewardship

Whistle While You Work: Heeding Your Life's Calling, Richard Leider & David Shapiro, 2001

Who Am I?: Exploring What It Means to Be a Child of God, Katherine Paterson, 1992

Web Resources:

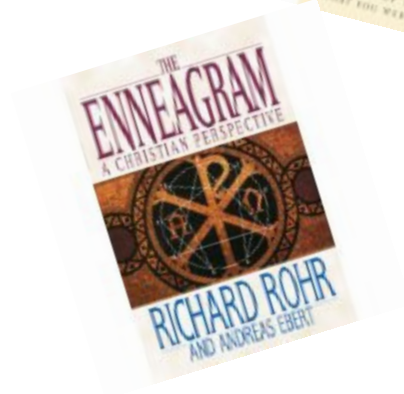
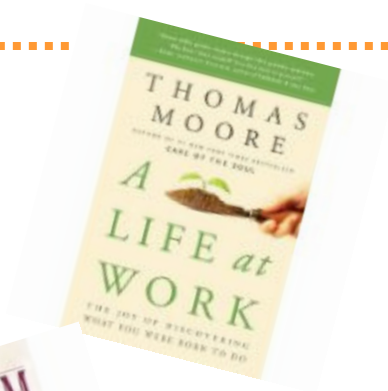
Gifts Survey on The Basilica Website:
www.mary.org/giftsurvey

Take the VIA Signature Strengths Questionnaire:

www.authentic happiness.org

Upper Room....spiritual type

www.methodx.net



Closing Prayer

**Creator God,
at Baptism we accepted
the call to follow Jesus.
Be with us as we move along on
our faith journey.
Send us your Holy Spirit,
that we might have wisdom for the journey.
Help us to develop and share our gifts,
as good stewards, that we may use them in
love and service in your Kingdom.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.**

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