

## Pastor's Column

Rev. Michael Ratajczak  
michaelr@stmoside.org  
758-4100 x100

### **“Gratitude—A Lifetime of Christian Stewardship: Time, Talent, and Treasure Joyfully Given—Part II”**

We continue our journey through the month of October as we reflect upon Christian Stewardship, and reflect upon the meaning of the words, “Thank You.”

Christian Stewardship is a way of living, living as Disciples of the Lord Jesus. Thus Christian Stewardship is, simply put, Discipleship.

This weekend, at all our Eucharistic Celebrations, Debbie and John Fredette will share their “witness talk” about their journey with the Lord Jesus. They focus, especially, upon how the Faith Community of St. Thomas More was present to them during the recent death of their son, Owen.

As we take time to reflect upon the meaning of gratitude, John and Debbie share their gratitude with us. They have come to say “Thank You” to us! In turn, we say “Thank You” to them for their witness to us.

Our “Thank You,” one to another, reminds us of our interconnectedness, the web of relationship and community that gives meaning to life.

John, Debbie and family, thank you for being with us this weekend in this very special way!

I share with everyone a prayer that I would encourage you to pray around the table sometime this week:

“Thank you, God,  
for all these things that reveal your love.  
Thank you for the heavens that cover us,  
for the earth beneath our feet,  
for the sun in the day and the stars of the night,  
for the snow and the rains  
and the rivers and the lakes  
for the mountains and valleys and trees and flowers.

Thank you, God,  
for those people who demonstrate Your love.  
Thank you for those great men and women who followed You  
throughout history,  
for the priests and prophets  
and apostles and ministers,  
for doctors and teachers and mothers and fathers  
and painters and musicians and writers  
and farmers and laborers and clerks,  
for those men and women who accepted Your love  
and dedicated their lives  
to loving their fellow men and women.

Thank you, God,  
for choosing me to be one of Your people,  
for calling me and equipping me to communicate  
Your love to my world about me.

Thank you, God.”

—Brandt/Corita, Psalm/Now (Concordia Publication House)

*Fr. Mike*