

Pastor's Column

Gratitude—A Lifetime of Christian Stewardship: (Time, Talent, and Treasure Joyfully Given—Part II)

We continue our journey through the month of January as we reflect upon Christian Stewardship, mindful that Stewardship is the fruit of Faith and Gratitude.

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, Bill Ipsen, the Chairperson of our Capital Campaign, will share with us the latest update of Phase 2 of our Capital Campaign, "***Our Journey Into The Future . . . Together.***" And he will give us a preview of Phase 2.1 of our Capital Campaign that begins this month.

In this Phase 2.1 we will raise the \$500,000 that we failed to raise in Phase 2 of our Campaign. These dollars are essential to keeping us on target for the building of our Permanent Church and Parish Offices building.

As we take time to reflect upon the meaning of Stewardship, which is the fruit of Faith and Gratitude, let us be mindful that there are three components of Stewardship—time, talent, and treasure. This weekend we focus upon the treasure piece.

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, God,
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.*

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

F. Mike