



# Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

In Catholic Schools Curriculum

As proposed at the 2009 Theological Update Day

The Archdiocese of Seattle Catholic Schools department collaborated closely with the office of Parish Stewardship to develop curriculum suggestions based on 'The Twelve Gardens of Stewardship,' for presentation at the 2009 Theological Update Day. The resulting goal of this event was for our schools to include in their curriculums a grade and 'Garden' focus for each month of the school year.

**The suggested focus for May are the Gardens of Technology and the Mind, in the curriculum for grade 7.**

Below are materials that you will find useful in implementing this goal. These tools are designed to be edited and adapted – if preferred - according to the specific curriculum needs of your school.

## **Attached Contents:**

- **Prayer Service for Staff Meetings for Gardens of Technology and the Mind**
- **Self Assessment for Staff Meetings for Gardens of Technology and the Mind**
- **Online Curriculum Examples for Gardens of Technology and the Mind**
- **Bulletin Board Idea for Gardens of Technology and the Mind**
- **Suggested Notes for Parent Packets for Gardens of Technology and the Mind**

You will find these materials and much more – including lesson plans and class activity ideas from educators who participated at the 2009 Theological Update Day - at the Archdiocesan webpage designated for incorporating the 'Twelve Gardens of Stewardship' into our Catholic schools curriculums: [www.seattlearch.org/gardens](http://www.seattlearch.org/gardens)



# Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

Prayer Service for Staff Meetings

## **Gardens of Technology and the Mind**

### **Let us Pray:**

Lord,

You are the sower and reaper, the planter and harvester. We are eager to cultivate the gifts in the fertile soil of hearts open to You.

### **Reading from Scripture:**

"Intelligent people are always ready to learn. Their ears are open for knowledge."

*Prov 18:15*

"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things." *Phil 4:8*

### **Meditation – How are we cultivating our gifts?**

Do I use the technology as a gift from God, to learn and expand my mind? Do I thank God for the technologies of modern life available to me, such as a computer, digital camera, car, etc.? Do I use technology in my life to become a fuller person, according to God's will?

### **Closing:**

Lord,

The seed that fell on rich ground yielded a harvest of thirty, sixty, or one hundred fold. May the seeds that You have planted in our hearts, in all the gardens where we are called to be good stewards, produce a rich harvest for building up Your Kingdom. Amen.



# Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

Self Assessment for Staff Meetings

*Thoughts on each of the Twelve Gardens within the Four Pillars of Stewardship:  
Prayer, Formation, Hospitality and Service*

## **Gardens of Technology and the Mind**

“Intelligent people are always ready to learn. Their ears are open for knowledge.”

*Prov 18:15*

We live in a vastly different world from the one of just fifty years ago. Our technological advances allow us to do things both good and bad that were not even thought of just a generation ago. It is our daily choice as to how to use the gifts of technology that surround us.

### **Prayer**

How does technology make life easier today? Thank God in prayer for those things. How is modern technology used for sin? Even the rampant materialism and individual gratification that is promoted through the technological media can be sinful. Consider a prayer that asks God to let His will be done - or create a prayer of your own, which asks God's help in promoting technology for His purpose.

### **Formation**

Consider how technology pertains to your personal and professional life. Are you being called to learn more about any forms of technology? Consider ways to ensure your knowledge of technology as it continually advances.

### **Hospitality**

Think of the computer and your use of it. What are the opportunities to use it for good? How can you avoid using email or the internet in ways that are not pleasing to God, such as hurting others, albeit inadvertently? What ways could you use your computer to enhance other people's lives?

### **Service**

There are many opportunities to use technology to help others. Consider tools available to you that God may want you to use for a special project or ministry.



# Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

## Online Curriculum Examples

### **Gardens of Technology and the Mind**

The Stewardship website, Learning to Give, offers a wide variety of lesson plans which may be used to incorporate the Twelve Gardens of Stewardship into your curriculum. Though philanthropy is the filter for many of these lesson plans, you will find a large number of appropriate choices and useful ideas. Here are instructions for reviewing a lesson plan that you may wish to draw from for your own use:

Path:

- Go to 'Learning to Give' [www.learningtogive.org](http://www.learningtogive.org)
- Click on top of page 'Find Lesson Plans'
- Select Keyword option
- Choose grade. If prompted to select a subject, you may wish to select 'All.' Select letter of a keyword to view lesson plans within that subject.
- To select the most appropriate lesson plan for your class, place the curser over the view icons and review a brief summary of each plan.

**For the Gardens of Technology and the Mind, if you choose [Grade 7 – Letter T for Technology](#) , you will find included in the list of 22 lessons; ['If I Had a Million Dollars'](#), a lesson which promotes the use of technology for good, as a research tool.**

You are not limited to this selection, of course. You may find other lessons that fit your specific curriculum needs using the various search options available.



## Gardens of Technology and the Mind

Grade 7 and Technology/Computer Class

*Our minds are extraordinary gifts that allow us to have fellowship with our Creator, who has called us to have a spirit of 'love, power and a sound mind.' We should always be learning, questioning, and thirsting for knowledge, in both our spiritual and temporal worlds. Technology can be very useful toward this purpose, when used responsibly. How can we stay mindful of using technology ethically?*

### Project

- Title bulletin board; 'Using Technology to Benefit Ourselves and Others.'
- Draw simple graphics of a large computer screen and keyboard keys. (Or assign creative seventh graders to the task.)
- Post on keyboard keys some of the ethical uses for computers and the internet, such as learning, creating and giving.
- Subtitle the computer screen; 'Websites that Don't Waste Your Time.' List some of your favorite educational and social justice sites. Your students may have valuable input!

### Suggested Quotes

*"Intelligent people are always ready to learn. Their ears are open for knowledge." Prov 18:15*

*"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things." Phil 4:8*



## SUGGESTED NOTES FOR PARENT PACKETS

Parents appreciate knowing what their children are learning in school! Here are ways you might include the 'Twelve Gardens of Stewardship' concepts in your weekly packet of information to school parents.

Please feel free to use this suggested title, graphic logo and introductory text – and to **edit and adapt** the following 'Garden' sections according to your needs.



### The Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

*Applying Christian Stewardship to Every Area of Our Lives*

Suggested  
← Title

↓  
Suggested  
Introduction

Being good stewards includes recognizing God's gifts in every area of our lives and using these gifts responsibly, in love and justice – to ourselves as well as toward others. The 'Twelve Gardens of Stewardship' is a concept which identifies twelve different areas of our everyday life in which we should be mindful of conducting ourselves within the will of God. During the school year, our students will focus on one or more of these gardens. This May, our students will focus on the Gardens of Technology and the mind.

#### **Gardens of Technology and the Mind**

We are created in the image of God. Our minds are extraordinary gifts that allow us to have fellowship with our Creator. We know from scripture that God has called us to have a spirit of 'love, power and a sound mind.' We should always be learning, questioning, and thirsting for knowledge, in both our spiritual and temporal worlds. Technology can be very useful toward this purpose, when used responsibly.

This month, the seventh grade students will discuss ways to continue gaining knowledge and growing their minds, including through the ethical use of technology.