



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 November is the Garden of Money in the curriculum for grade four.

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 Garden of Money**
- **Self Assessment for Staff Meetings for Garden of Money**
- **Online Curriculum Examples for Garden of Money**
- **Bulletin Board Idea for Garden of Money**
- **Suggested Notes for Parent Packets for Garden of Money**

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



Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

Prayer Service for Staff Meetings

Garden of Money

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:

“What do you possess that you have not received?” *1 Cor 4:7*

“The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern.”
Prov 29:7

“So do not worry and say, 'What are we to eat?' or 'What are we to drink?' or 'What are we to wear?' All these things the pagans seek. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom (of God) and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides.” *Mt 6: 31-33*

Meditation – How are we cultivating our gifts?

Am I too attached to my possessions? What would I not be able to walk away from? Do I give ‘from the top’ of my material gifts, or from whatever is left over after I’ve spent on myself? Do I give financial support to local, national, and/or world charities? Have I pondered the value of my non-material blessings as compared to the value of my tangible possessions? Do I trust God to meet all of my needs?

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

Garden of Money

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth . . . For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.” *Mt 6: 19, 21*

A central insight of stewardship is that the material ‘possessions’ we have are not really ours. They belong to God, who has entrusted them to us so we can nurture, tend, and share them. How does God want us to use these gifts?

Prayer

What ways can you thank God for the material blessings you have? Think of times you have asked God for guidance in using your money and resources. How can you nurture and develop your ability to listen to Him and discern His wishes? Consider the prayer forms offered in your Church and ways you may apply them in giving thanks to God for His blessings.

Formation

How might you be a better steward of your money? Consider ways to utilize appropriate media information/articles to help you budget your money effectively.

Hospitality

Consider ways to use some of your material and monetary gifts to help others and to give of your ‘first fruits’ to God’s community.

Service

What can you do to give a proper portion of your gifts to help build up the Kingdom of God and carry out Christ’s mission? Think of what your church asks of you monetarily. How can you find ways to increase giving or begin to give to your church and/or community?



Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

Online Curriculum Examples

Garden of Money

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
- 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 Garden of Money, if you choose [Grade 4 – Letter M for Money](#) , you will find 5 lesson plans under 'Money.'

You are not limited to this selection, of course. You may find lessons that fit your specific curriculum needs in other keywords, as well.

Another useful resource is the 2009 Theological Update Day handout, 'Stewardship & Materialism.' It may be found online in the 'Additional Resource' section at www.seattlearch.org/gardens.



Bulletin Board Ideas for the 12 Gardens of Stewardship

Garden of Money

Perspective: Anti-materialism

Grade 4

"What do you possess that you have not received?" 1 Cor 4:7

Everything we have is a gift from God. Even the money we earn from working hard is a blessing from God. We should not place as much importance on money - and the things it can buy – than we do on 'seeking God and His righteousness.'

What are the most valuable things in our lives? Do they always cost money?

Project

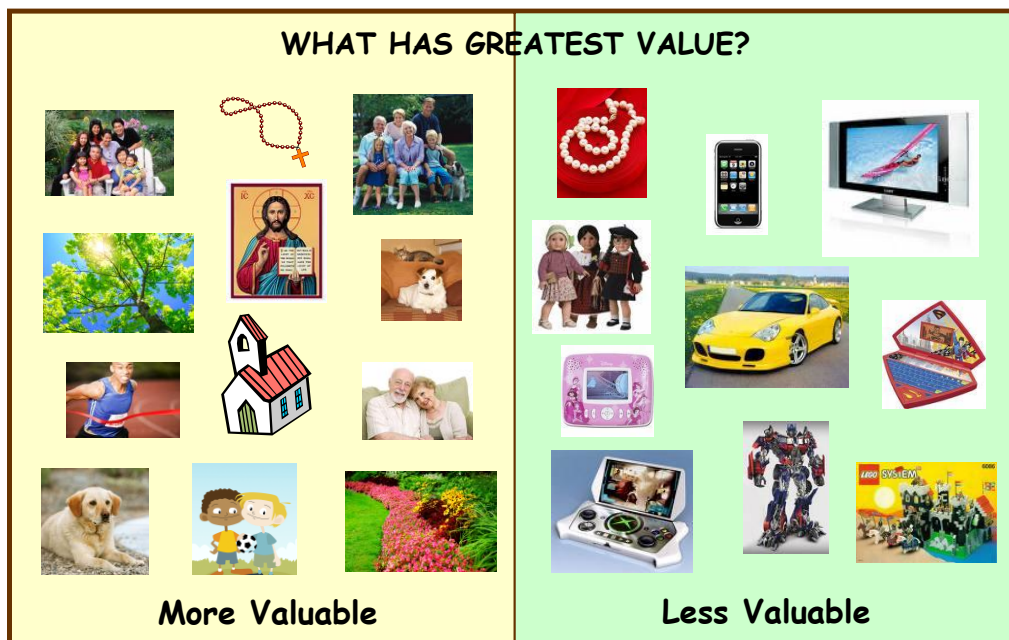
- Divide the bulletin board into two halves, with title; What Has Greatest Value?
- Have the students draw pictures or bring in photos of their loved ones – pets, too! Collect photos, magazine cut-outs or student drawings of tangible material items, such as flat screen TVs, cell phones, jewelry, fancy cars, expensive toys, video games, etc.
- Also collect photos, magazine cut-outs or student drawings of less tangible concepts, such as a family going to church or a child praying (seeking God), an athlete in action (strength and good health), children playing together (friendship), a beautiful ocean/garden/forest scene (nature), etc.
- Have the students place the pictures/drawings onto the appropriate half of the bulletin board; More Valuable or Less Valuable

Suggested Quotes

"So do not worry and say, 'What are we to eat?' or 'What are we to drink?' or 'What are we to wear?' . . . Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides." Mt 6: 31-3

"Happiness consists not in having much, but in being content with what you have." (Anonymous)

"We must not make the pursuit of money the goal of our lives, nor close our hearts to the needs of the poor". Amos 8:4-7



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 introductive text – and to **edit and adapt** the 'Garden of Money' section 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 (Each month), our students will focus one or more of these gardens. This month, our fourth grade students will focus on the Garden of Money.

Garden of Money

Money is not an end in itself, it just represents a value. We are called to be masters of our money and to use it ethically - in a way consistent with our faith, which offers us moral guidance. This month, the fourth grade students will learn how money and all of our possessions are gifts from God and that we are called to understand which things in our life are truly important – and to give appropriate priority to these things.