



The Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

Applying Christian Stewardship to Every Area of Our Lives

A NOTE TO PASTORS:

The Archdiocese of Seattle Catholic Schools department has worked closely with the office of Parish Stewardship to develop curriculum suggestions based on 'The Twelve Gardens of Stewardship,' a concept developed by Bishop Robert Morneau of the Diocese of Green Bay, which helps us apply Christian stewardship to every area of our daily lives.

We encourage you to help to foster Stewardship as a way of life by offering timely, coordinating support of this portion of your parish school's curriculum.

Below is suggested text, scriptures and meditations for the 'Twelve Gardens of Stewardship'. Our hope is that you and your staff find these useful for pulpit announcements, placing notices in your weekly church bulletin, and perhaps as a source of inspiration for homilies or 'Prayers of the Faithful.'

The 2009/2010 schedule of the 'Twelve Gardens' curriculum is a suggested proposal, so you may wish to have your staff verify your school's participation and 'Garden' focus each month before including an announcement in your bulletin. The scheduled focus for the month of November is the 'Garden of Money.'

Your staff is free to use the following graphic logo and text – and to **edit and adapt** the 'Garden' section, as appropriate.

You will find more information at the new Archdiocesan webpage: www.seattlearch.org/gardens

Also, the [Office of Parish Stewardship](#) is here to assist you in any way.



Garden of Money

SUGGESTIONS FOR WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN



The Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

Applying Christian Stewardship to Every Area of Our Lives

↑ Suggested title & logo
for use in weekly bulletin

Suggested
Introductory text ↓

Being good stewards includes recognizing God's gifts in every area of our lives, using these gifts responsibly and sharing them in love and justice. The 'Twelve Gardens of Stewardship' is a concept that identifies twelve different areas of our everyday life in which we should be mindful of conducting ourselves within the will of God – or, twelve different 'gardens' which we should tend to and cultivate. Each month, our school (a grade in our school) will focus on one or more of these gardens. The Garden of Money is the focus for this month.

Suggested description of the Garden of Money is below - to edit and adapt as needed for your parish's weekly bulletin.

Garden of Money

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. Even the money we earn from our own hard work is a gift from God. How does God want us to use these gifts? This month, our fourth grade students will focus on the difference between material possessions and the other blessings in life that have far greater value.

SCRIPTURE AND PRAYER MEDITATIONS

- **Parishioner Meditations - Cultivating our Garden of Money**

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?

- **Scripture**

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

"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: 31-3

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

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

"If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, how can the love of God remain in him?" 1 John 3:17

"If you want to be perfect, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven." Mt 19:21

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35

"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

"For he rescues the poor when they cry out, the oppressed who have no one to help. He shows pity to the needy and the poor and saves the lives of the poor." Psalms 72:12

"If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,' but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead." James 2:15

"You cannot serve God and wealth." Luke 16:1-13

"He looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; He also saw a poor widow put in two copper coins. He said, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them.'" Luke 21: 1-3

"God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Cor 9:7