



Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

Prayer Service

Garden of Decisions

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:

"Wisdom shouts in the streets . . . 'Come and listen to my counsel. I will share my heart with you and make you wise.'" *Prov 1:20*

"Get all the advice and instruction you can, so you will be wise the rest of your life."
Prov 19:20

Meditation – How are we cultivating our gifts?

Do I bring God into my decision making process? In my large decisions? In my small decisions? How does my faith affect the decisions I make in my work environment? Have I considered spiritual direction or counseling to help discern how God is leading my actions? Was there a moment today when God was challenging me to do something? Is there a significant decision I am being called to make in my life now? Is there a part of my life that I try to keep God out of? How does this affect my decisions?

Closing Prayer:

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.



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Reflections

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

Garden of Decisions

The opportunity to make choices, both large and small, is a gift from God and a great responsibility. This is our gift of free will.

Prayer

How could we thank God for the gifts of knowledge and a well-formed conscience that helps us to make good decisions? Let's consider some pending decisions that we will need to make. How can we remind ourselves to constantly ask the Lord for guidance in making our decisions?

Formation

What can we do to keep up to date on the Catholic Church's teaching about social issues? Is there a decision we need to make that requires research? What are some books and articles we can read or websites we can visit to find out what the Church teaches? If we don't know, who can we ask?

Hospitality

Do we know of someone who has a difficult decision to make? How can we support or help them to make that decision? Is there someone in our church qualified to give guidance?

Service

When we're involved in a group that is making a collective decision, what are some ways we could be a force for consensus. How can we help people arrive at decisions that keep the vision of Jesus in mind?