



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 February is the 'Garden of History.'

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 History

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 History is the focus for this month.

Garden of History

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

Knowing and understanding our history helps us to understand who we are as a community and a culture. Just as understanding the history of our faith helps us to be good stewards of the Church, so also does understanding the history of our nation, government and other secular communities help us to be responsible stewards in these areas.

This month, the third grade students will learn how important it is for us to be aware of and value our history and traditions.

SCRIPTURE AND PRAYER MEDITATIONS

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

Do I use available media to stay informed about recent history ('current events')? Do I take advantage of books, documentaries, and other resources that give us perspective on history? Do I consider history and news critically, and in light of ways I can make a difference in the world? Do I share my personal stories with others, particularly those in newer generations? Do I regularly reflect on my own life and what I have learned from my personal experiences? Do I reflect on my spiritual history and the ways I have experienced Christ throughout my life?

- **Scripture**

"I will teach you hidden lessons from our past - stories we have heard and known, stories our ancestors handed down to us. We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, . . . so the next generation might know them . . . and they in turn will teach their own children. So each generation should set its hope anew on God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his commands." *Psalms 78*