



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 February is the Garden of History in the curriculum for grade three.

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

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 History

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:

"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*

Meditation – How are we cultivating our gifts?

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?

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 History

“We will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord . . . and they in turn will teach their own children . . . ” Psalms 78

God calls us to understand our past and use that knowledge for a better future. The Bible tells of the triumphs and failures of God’s people throughout scriptural history. How can we apply those lessons to our own history? How can we become more aware of the gift that is each new day?

Prayer

Consider where God has positively influenced history. What would you say to this caring God? Consider where Christ has influenced the course of your life. Talk to God about your thankfulness, your fears for the future, your lack of understanding, and your willingness to let God lead the way. If you are challenged with your faith, consider speaking to your priest or to a trusted, faith filled friend.

Formation

What are some areas in history that you would like to learn more about? What can you do to learn more? How can you stay informed about current events? Are there parts of church history would you like to know more about? What resources are available to you?

Hospitality

Can you think of ways to keep up with your own family’s history? What could you do to keep the memories alive for future generations in your family? Do you have interesting personal stories that would benefit others? How can you help pass along the ongoing histories – and resulting lessons - of your church, school and community?

Service

What can you do to encourage others to appreciate history? Think of times you’ve shared a great book, listened to a family elder’s story of older times, or interviewed someone about their history. What benefits did this offer? How can you share that knowledge with others?



Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

Online Curriculum Examples

Garden of History

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 History, if you choose [Grade 3 – Letter H for History](#) , you will find 20 lesson plans under 'Historical Biographies.'

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



Bulletin Board Ideas for the 12 Gardens of Stewardship

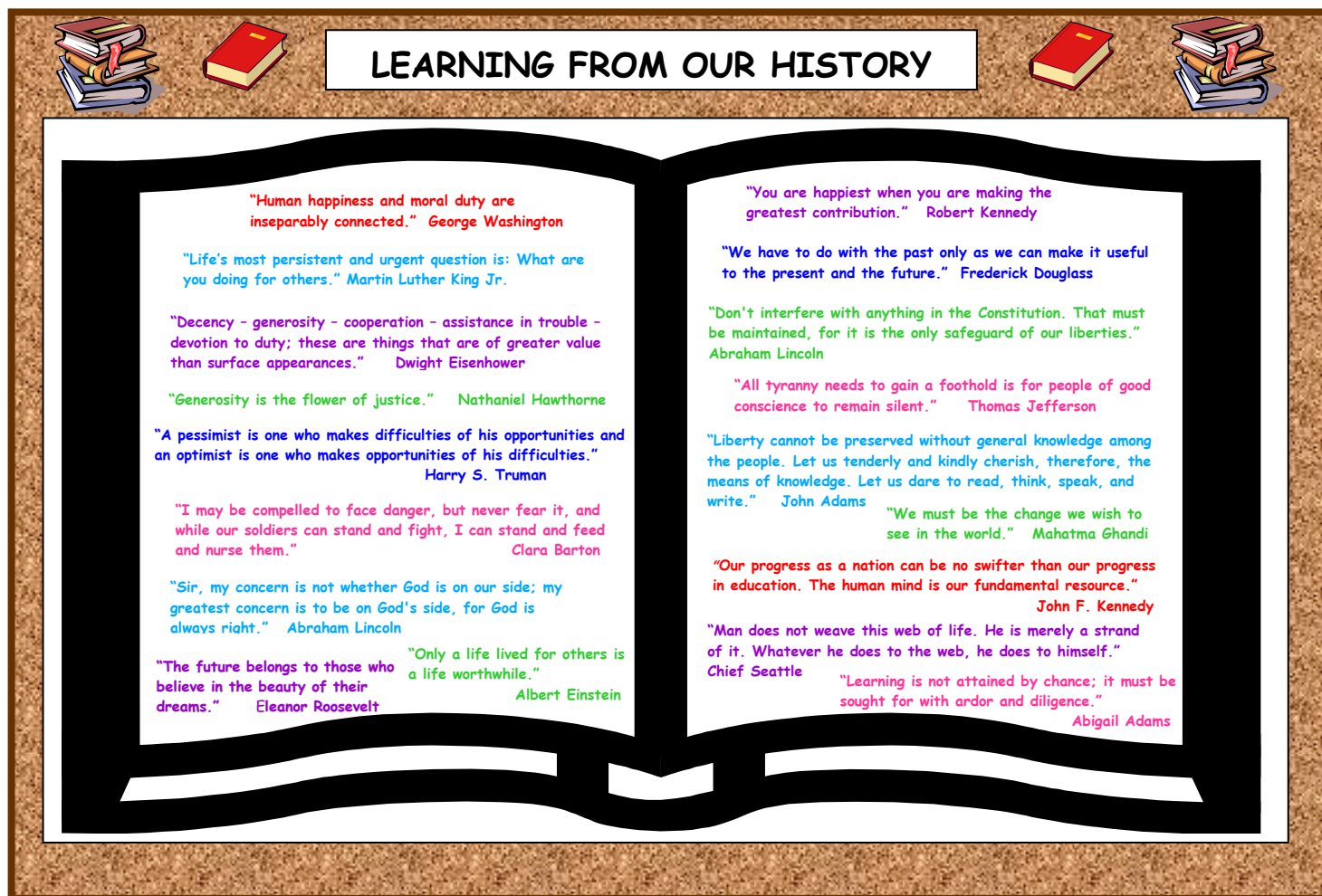
Garden of History

Grade 3

God calls us to understand our past and to use that knowledge for a better future. The history of God's people in scripture shows us the consequences of disobeying God, as well as the rewards of living according to His will. This history, along with all of humanity's known history, is meant to be used for our benefit, as a guide. What can we learn from the historical figures of our past?

Project

- Title bulletin board; 'Learning From Our History.'
- Draw a simple graphic of a large, open book to place on the bulletin board - such as the illustrated example below.
- Have students use colorful markers to write quotes from historical figures.
(A prolific source of quotes can be found at <http://www.brainyquote.com/>)
- Place large 'book' on bulletin board.



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 following 'Garden of Relationships' 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, our students will focus one or more of these gardens. This month, our third grade students will focus on the Garden of History.

Garden of History

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.