

STEWARDSHIP WEEKEND

It's a bit of an odd word isn't it? *Stewardship*—nothing to do with taking care of people on a cruise ship, much less chopping up potatoes, meat and veggies to make a stew. But it has an important scriptural origin in the parables and teachings of Jesus, where it is interchangeable with “servant.” “Who, then, is that faithful and prudent servant whom the master has put in charge of his household?” The “who” is us!

You and I are all called to be faithful servants, stewards, of the Kingdom. God entrusts all of us with gifts—many different gifts, as St. Paul would say—which we have a responsibility to offer in service to God and to the Church. The question we each need to ask is “what are **my** gifts?” Once we figure that out, we need to use our gifts in whatever way we can to help build up the Body of Christ.

Every year around this time we invite you to ask yourself that question: “what **are** my gifts.” In every Catholic parish, really every faith community of every denomination, opportunities to be of service in some way are offered to those who consider themselves “members.” One of my associate pastors in another parish used to borrow the American Express motto “membership has its benefits” in responding to a person who wanted something from the parish but who had never bothered to become a member, much less, give anything back. “Membership” in the Body of Christ does indeed have its benefits, but also its responsibilities.

There are, as St. Paul says, many gifts, and there are also many opportunities to give. Please listen to the invitation you'll hear today from parishioners who have found their gifts and have been willing to use them as good servants—stewards—of the Kingdom. What about you?

Fr. Bob