



Dear Faith Development Parents,

Through the Faith Development programs at St. Thomas More, we teach our children and youth the message of Christian discipleship, which includes the practice of Stewardship. Stewardship is a way of life for Catholic Christians, a decision we make to thank to God for all His blessings, a commitment we make to help care for our Church, for our communities, for God's Creation and for the poor. Below are just a few examples of ways our youth show their stewardship of God's gifts:

- **Stewardship of Time:** volunteering (giving of time) to help with activities at home, at St. Thomas More, or in our local community; praying at Mass; being loving to siblings.
- **Stewardship of Talent:** using skills and abilities to help other people (helping someone learn a new game or to be a prayer partner) or to do something for others (entertaining residents at a nursing home; baking cookies for residents at the Ronald McDonald House or a local prison; fixing a broken toy for a sibling; making and delivering Thanksgiving food baskets.)
- **Stewardship of Treasure:** donating used toys and clothes to the Caring and Sharing Center for people in need; using resources wisely (Reduce their consumption, Reuse rather than throw away goods, Recycle goods at the end of their life); sharing some of a weekly allowance; learning to share possessions.

Fr. John Durbin, our Pastor announced recently a new Stewardship initiative and invited all youth to participate. Please once again encourage your children to participate. **Stewardship envelopes, designed to be used by our youth to encourage them to share their time, talent, and treasure with others, will be provided to all families who request them.** The goal of this initiative is to provide an opportunity for our youth to join the entire parish each week in thanking God for His generous blessings and to make them mindful of their obligation to God, to the community and to the poor.

Please encourage your children during the week and help them to reflect upon opportunities they had to share their blessings with others. Listen to their thoughts and feelings about giving of their time, talent and treasure. Then, help them to complete their stewardship envelope which they can proudly place in the collection basket at Mass the following Sunday. Some of our youth's contributions will be printed (without full names) in the bulletin each week in the "Young Stewards Corner", which will make everyone in our faith community very proud. Please read them and encourage your children to do the same.

A note about financial offerings: The purpose of this initiative **is not** to raise more money for our parish but to teach our youth about stewardship: the responsibility and joy of giving, and giving back to God out of gratitude for all that God has given to us. Please do not supply money for the envelope. Money offered through stewardship envelopes should be from the youth's earnings or allowance. Money collected from youth stewardship envelopes will be combined with the weekly offertory collections and used for parish support and outreach efforts supported. (At this time, no record of giving will be maintained for our youth and there will be no annual reporting of their contributions -- separately or reflected on their parents' contribution statement.)

Parental support is crucial to the success of this youth stewardship endeavor. Thank you for making the time to participate in the spiritual growth of your children, and for the powerful example of your own stewardship commitments. If you have questions, please contact Laura Stewart in the Parish Office. She may be reached by phone (919-942-6229) or email (LStewart@st-thomasmore.org.)

Yours in Christ,

Jim Hynes
Director of Elementary and Adult Faith Development

The Catholic Community of St. Thomas More
940 Carmichael Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27514-4023
(Phone) 919.942.1040 (Fax) 919.942.6193 (Web) <http://church.st-thomasmore.org>