

FINANCE COVENANT

Dearest Creator, giver of all my gifts, I am ever reminded that if it weren't for you, I would be nothing, have nothing. I thank you for all of my gifts ... gifts of intelligence, reason, sound judgment, heart and soul, health, family, friends, the beautiful landscape of western Kentucky, the bountiful crops, fruits of the Gulf, basin and bayous, sunrise, sunsets, abundant wildlife and beautiful flowers. I also thank you for my financial blessings. I gratefully acknowledge that they come from you. It is you who said, "You who follow my teachings will be my disciples." Your words are very firm on the use of money. I pledge to honor you and your church with a proportionate, planned and sacrificial share of my financial blessings. I will show good faith by signing a commitment card stating my intentions to my faith community. I do this out of my deep love and gratitude to you, heavenly Father. Amen.

Stewardship *is a* disciple's *response.*



Catholic Pastoral Center
Office of Stewardship

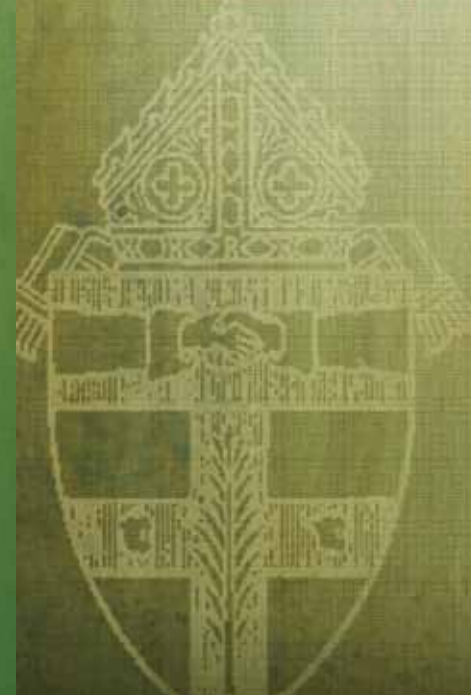
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*A disciple is one who follows
the teachings of Jesus Christ.*

Stewardship FINANCE

**"FOR THEY HAVE ALL
CONTRIBUTED FROM THEIR
SURPLUS WEALTH, BUT SHE,
FROM HER POVERTY, HAS
CONTRIBUTED ALL SHE HAD,
HER WHOLE LIVELIHOOD."**

Mark 12:44



what does the
Word of God
teach us about our use of **money?**

Leviticus 27:30

"All tithes of the land, whether in grain from the fields or in fruit from the trees, belong to the Lord."

Deuteronomy 14:22,29

"Each year you shall tithe all the produce that grows in the field you have sown, ... so that the Lord, your God, may bless you in all that you undertake."

Deuteronomy 16:16-17

"No one shall appear before the Lord empty-handed, but each of you with as much as he can give, in proportion to the blessings which the Lord, your God, has bestowed upon you."

Proverbs 3:9-10

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with first fruits of all our produce; then will your barns be filled with grain, with new wine your vats will overflow."

Sirach 35:7-10

"In generous spirit pay homage to the Lord, be not sparing of freewill gifts. With each contribution show a cheerful countenance, and pay your tithes in a spirit of joy. Give to the Most High as he has given to you, generously according to your means. For the Lord is one who always repays, and he will give back to you sevenfold."

Malachi 3:10

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house, and try me in this says the Lord of hosts; shall I not open up the floodgates of heaven to pour down blessings upon you without measure?"

Matthew 6:26

"No man can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other or be attentive to one and despise the other. You cannot give yourself to God and money."

Mark 10:21

"There is one more thing you must do. Go and sell what you have and give to the poor; you will then have treasure in heaven."

Mark 12:43-44

"I want you to observe that this poor widow contributed more than all the others who donated to the treasury. They gave from their surplus wealth, but she gave from her want, all that she had to live on."

Luke 3:11

"Let the man with two coats give to him who has none. The man who has food should do the same."

Luke 6:38

"Give and it shall be given to you. Good measure pressed down, shaken together, running over, will they pour into the fold of your garment. For the measure you measure will be measured back to you."

Luke 12:32-34

"Do not live in fear, little flock. It has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom. Sell what you have and give alms. Get purses for yourselves that do not wear out, a never-failing treasure with the Lord which no thief comes near nor any moth destroys. Wherever your treasure lies, there your heart will be."

Reasons to Give

Financial blessings are a gift to us from a loving God. How we manage financial gifts is a barometer of our level of faith. People who make a decision to give to God from their first fruits and not the leftovers find their faith is deepened, and rather than find themselves lacking, they become more enriched spiritually and materially.

Gifts of material blessings should be Sacrificial (pinch a little), Proportionate (Does it adequately reflect a true measure of your financial blessings?), Planned and Identifiable (to allow your parish leaders to plan adequately).

Your gift will be representative of a true Christian commitment if it is sacrificial, planned, consistent and proportionate. Please study this Standards of Giving Guide to help you determine what your present percentage of giving is. You may wish to increase your level of giving to a percentage that truly reflects a sacrificial and proportionate gift.