## WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

Let's begin by stating what stewardship is not. Stewardship is not about money. It is not a fundraising program. It is not about building a new parish hall. It is not a new fad or environmental word.

*Stewardship is a way of life*

Biblically based, in 1 Peter 4: 10,

“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one
another as good stewards of God's varied grace.”

According to the Bishops' Pastoral Letter of 1992, *Stewardship: A Disciples Response*, a Christian Steward is:

* One who receives God's gifts gratefully
* Cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner
* Shares them in justice and love with others
* And returns them with increase to the Lord

The decision to share our time, talent and treasure with our communion of faith is an important aspect of being a Christian steward. Christian stewardship is the grateful response we make to God's generosity.

The first quality of a Christian steward is being grateful. All that we have, and all that we are able to do, are gifts from God. Living a life as a Christian steward involves a deliberate decision to thank God for all His blessings by returning to Him a portion of our time, talent and treasure. Each year, Catholic households in the diocese are asked to prayerfully plan and make stewardship of time and talent a part of their lifestyle and stewardship of treasure a part of their budget.

Giving of Our Time

All of our time should involve being with God in prayer and worship, sharing our love with family and friends, and volunteering our time in church and community activities that help others.

Sharing Our Talents

God has entrusted each of us with unique skills and talents. We must take time to recognize those gifts and discern how we can offer them to our parish, diocese and community to carry out the mission of the Catholic Church in Utah.

Giving of Our Treasure

All gifts are from God, including money and our material possessions. We have a responsibility to share our gifts with our family and with others in need. As Christian stewards, we are called to return in thanksgiving a proportionate gift which reflects the many blessings we have received.