

# "All Aboard the SMV Stewardship!"





## SAINT MARY'S VISITATION CATHOLIC PARISH SCHOOL STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE

### *Riding the Six Waves of Everyday Stewardship*


This year our school sets sail into educating, promoting, and living the six characteristics of our Catholic Church's teachings on being good stewards. The U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Stewardship tells us "As Christian stewards, we receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord." Each month at our all-school assemblies, we will learn how to bring these teachings to life through the sharing of our gifts of time, talent, and treasure with others in our school, parish community, country, and world. Then, as classes we will set sail with our gifts to live these stewardship teachings 24/7/365. As St. Terese of Avila said, "Christ has no other hands but yours," and as Fr. Peter tells us, "...Christ expects us to use these gifts in the ways He Himself would use them, ...our hands becoming His in order to build up the Kingdom for the sake of the Church, for those who are in need."


### **Here are our six characteristics - our "waves" - of an everyday stewards, adapted from Tracy Welliver:**


 **MINDFUL** *Lives in the present, without baggage of the past, and without fear of the future.*  
To recognize that the call of Jesus can come at any moment to help someone in need from simple to profound ways, giving us sacred opportunities to live the Works of Mercy in real and sincere ways everyday.  
*"If He asks much of you, it is because He knows you can give much." St. John Paul II*


 **PRAYERFUL** *Sees entire day as an opportunity to be in the presence of God.*  
To know our God is always with us – in the all of the peace and chaos of our day! Beginning the day with prayer, have it carry us through the day until we settle down, ending our day closing that same prayer, which started our day.

*"Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts." St. Teresa of Calcutta*

 **GRATEFUL** *Gives thanks for all of God's blessings, especially the little everyday ones.*  
To take time each day to give thanks and praise for the simple things we have been blessed to receive from God...life, breath, shelter, food, education, employment, family, our parish, ...the list is endless!  
*"No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks." St. Ambrose*

 **GRACIOUS** *Receives all of God's creation in a welcoming and hospitable manner.*  
To live a grace-filled life centered on Jesus in such a way that gives us an inner radiance attracting others to Him, a light that shines through the darkness of this time and directs others to building God's Kingdom in life-giving ways. A gracious life is a contagious life!  
*"Be who you are and be that well." St Francis de Sales*

 **COMMITTED** *Perseveres daily in a way of life acknowledging everything belongs to God.*  
Through the good times and bad, we run the race with God cheering us on, helping us to grow in faith through the sacraments, education, Scripture and other ways that feed and renew us.  
*"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4:7*

 **ACCOUNTABLE** *Understand the value of parish community and the role it plays.*  
To be accountable to the Church, to each other – to the Body of Christ – sharing spiritual direction helping one another on this journey of faith so as to remain one in Christ and his love..  
*"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2*

**Watch for updates on this stewardship initiative in the weekly SMV Virtual Backpack.**  
**Come May 2018, we will feature in the SMV school atrium all the good stewardship deeds we have done throughout the school year, all in Jesus' name.**