

LIVING GENEROUSLY

a stewardship narrative series presented by TENS

OCTOBER 16, 2016

THE REV. CRISTINE V. ROCKWELL

Haven't we all been told that perseverance, along with resilience, are the keys to adult success?

In Luke's gospel today we see perseverance in action as the determined woman, most probably at an extreme social and economic disadvantage from the judge, perseveres until she wears him down and receives justice and compensation for her grievance. Probably a minor miracle in that biblical setting!

So, could this woman's perseverance teach us something not only about justice, but also about our understanding of stewardship?

One of the most valuable lessons I have learned over the years is that to be successful as a steward, I need to persevere as I approach charitable giving, just as I need to persevere in the many other facets of my life.

If I am serious about my religious



reflection questions

- Think of a time you pledged time or money to the church. Were there obstacles that got in the way of your commitment?
- How did you react to those obstacles?
- Did you persevere in fulfilling the promise(s) you had made? If not, does that make it harder for you now to pledge time or talent or treasure?

stewardship, it's helpful to remember this woman and the judge. Taking one stab at my annual pledge amount, or making a pledge to begin proportional giving, won't get me to the goal of being generous with the gifts God has given me unless I stick with the goal I have set and persevere when I encounter hardship and difficulty in reaching that goal.

Pledging to take on a volunteer project will go nowhere unless I also promise myself to persevere when obstacles get in the way of keeping my pledge (and obstacles always do).

Jesus tells us it is important to persevere and that spiritual rewards await those who are consistent and constant in their relationship to God.

What that tells me is that God will indeed help me reach my spiritual goals if I commit myself to persevering when the going gets tough.... As I know it will.



The Rev. Cristine V. Rockwell is a retired parish priest and former college chaplain at UMass Amherst. She has been active in issues of stewardship since before her ordination in 1990.

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