Another Look at the US Bishops' Pastoral Letter

Stewardship: A Disciple's Response



Our U.S. Bishops remind us of the joys and challenges of living as a Christian steward in their pastoral letter Stewardship: A Disciple's Response.

The summary below is adapted from the document.

I.

THE CALL

Christian discipleship begins with vocation, the call to follow Jesus and imitate His way of life. Discipleship and the practice of stewardship constitute a way of life that is both privileged and challenging. We are each called individually by name and uniquely gifted to fulfill our part in the building of God's Kingdom.

II.

JESUS' WAY

The meaning of stewardship relies on the teaching and life of Jesus. Disciples of Jesus are called to evangelize, to share the Good News with others. Our reward is perfect fulfillment in God's Kingdom - a kingdom already present, real but imperfect, in this world, which Jesus' disciples help bring to its full reality by the practice of stewardship. Jesus' teachings in the beatitudes, the parable of the talents, and more show us the way.

III.

LIVING AS A STEWARD

Two human activities that are fundamental to the Christian vocation are collaborating with God in the work of creation and cooperating with God in the work of redemption. Both lie at the very heart of Christian stewardship in its deepest meaning. We have been entrusted to care for and use wisely the earth and all that is in it.

IV.

STEWARDS OF THE CHURCH

Each member of the Church shares in responsibility for its mission; each is called to practice stewardship of the Church. Christians also are called to look outward and to place themselves at the service of the entire human community, especially those who are most in need. The Eucharist is both the sign and the agent of this expansive communion of charity. We have a responsibility to our parish and larger church to share financial support, time and intellect.

V.

THE CHRISTIAN STEWARD

Who is a Christian disciple? One who responds to Christ's call, follows Jesus, and shapes his or her life in imitation of Christ's. Who is a Christian steward? 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.

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