60 Second Stewardship Sermons - What are they?

In the early days of our Church people brought animals and harvest items to be offered at Mass. Later it was home-made bread and wine that was used at offertory. Now the bread and wine is purchased, but we still “give” of ourselves.

One of the most concrete ways that we offer some part of ourselves in the Mass is by giving in the offertory collection. A basket is passed around and we are presented with an opportunity to give of our hard-earned money. Giving in the collection is a symbolic but very real way of dying to ourselves. It proclaims that our faith is ultimately in God, not in our material wealth. Of course it pays the very real bills that the church accrues every time the lights, heat, air conditioning and water, etc. are turned on. Most of us would be shocked to know how much it actually costs to pay such bills.

Examples of stewardship of treasure abound in the Scriptures:
Matthew 17:24-27 – Payment of the Temple Tax
1 Corinthians 16:1-4 – Saint Paul’s Collection
2 Corinthians 9:6-8 – Paul and Money
Mark 10:17-22 – The Rich Man and his possessions

Stewardship of Treasure is only one way of offering our gifts. We are all responsible to continue the redemptive work of Christ: proclaiming and teaching, serving and sanctifying, cooperating with God in our own redemption and that of others. This is the personal responsibility of each one of us as stewards of the Church. It is the mission of our Church.

A very important part of the preparation of the gifts to be offered at Mass is the procession of gifts. At the beginning of Mass there is a procession as the priest and altar servers enter the Church. At the offertory there is another procession, this one with representatives from the
and altar servers enter the Church. At the offertory there is another procession, this one with representatives from the congregation who are asked to carry the gifts. The significance of people from the congregation bringing these gifts to the priest is an important one.

The gifts represent us and the people who bring them to the front emphasize the fact that “we” the congregation are asking the priest to take these gifts and to offer them to God in our name. It is important because it sets the tone for us to understand that while the priest will say many of the prayers during this part of the Mass, he is saying them for all of us who are offering this Mass to God with him.

Keeping all this in mind, we are making a slight change here at St. John. To emphasize what St. John Church is accomplishing through the giving of time, talent, and treasure, we will announce a type of stewardship we have experienced. At each Mass when the collection is brought forth and when it is handed to Father Dan there will be a 60 second or less explanation of a ministry that is being done here at St. John Church by its members. It is our hope that everyone will clearly see the many good things that go on in our parish.

Many times when we hear the word stewardship, we spell it $tewardship. Maybe we should spell it S†ewardship with a cross. Stewardship is a way of life, with Jesus at the center and Mary as the ideal model of the steward. Mary said “Yes!” to God, bore God’s son, and practiced a life of sacrifice.

Here is an example of a 60 Second Stewardship Sermon that you may hear.

Two weekends ago we celebrated with Father Jeremy his priesthood ordination by attending a Mass at which he presided. We thank you for accepting Fr. Jeremy and visiting with him when he was serving here as a deacon this past year. We ask that you continue to pray for him as he begins his ministry at St. Mary’s Cathedral, St. Augustine Parish and at the Newman Center. We thank you for your practice of good stewardship which enabled us to have a reception of cake, coffee, and lemonade. Thank you also for staying after Mass to congratulate Fr. Jeremy.