

**STEWARDSHIP** *A Way of Life*

**Pray-Share-Serve**

**STEWARDS**

**in**

**Scripture**

*Up Close and Personal with the Friends  
of Jesus*

A skit for

**Lent**

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Up Close and Personal with the Friends of Jesus

# **Stewards in Scripture**

## *Lent*

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# Stewards in Scripture

## *Lent*

### “Up Close and Personal with the Friends of Jesus”

#### What is “Up Close and Personal?”

It is a simple forty minute skit/event that introduces the participants and audience to those were an eyewitness to the ministry of Jesus from a stewardship perspective.

#### Benefits of this event

- It is a unique and interactive opportunity to encourage a better understanding of stewardship within the context of scripture and the liturgical year.
- It provides the opportunity to engage new people to use their gifts in an enjoyable and creative way.
- It offers the opportunity for people to recommit themselves as stewards during the season of Lent.
- It encourages people to use their imagination and discover not to make stewardship an “add on” but to weave it into the life of the liturgical year.

#### Is the event difficult to organize?

**No.**

- The script for the event is included and does not have to be memorized.
- Ideas for costuming, environment and publicity are given.
- Everything can be adapted by the organizers to be simple or elaborate.
- Suggestions for outreach as well as the opening or closing prayer are also included.

(Sample)

# “Up Close and Personal”

## Agenda

- A The “angels” are at the entrances welcoming people and seating them.
- B **Director of the Event:**
- Welcome
  - Stewardship Focus
- C **Angel Raphael:** Introduction
- D **Angel Raphael:** Introduction of each character and a brief rationale of why each character is a steward.
- E **Friends of Jesus:** Each character tells a little of their story. Following each character, Raphael explains how they were stewards in their time. The character then places a “memory heart” on the cross of Jesus.
- F **Angel Raphael:** Invites everyone to take a heart and write how they might want to imitate one of Jesus’ friends from the Gospels this Lent. Invite participants to hang their hearts on the cross.
- G **Angel Raphael:** (If applicable) A reading of the winning entry to “Favorite Steward and Friend of Jesus” Contest.
- H **Angel Raphael:** Thank you
- I **Director of the Event:** Thank you to all the “stewards” who donated their time and special gifts to make this event possible. Would anyone have a special gift to share or a special way to volunteer for the next event?
- J Characters stay in costume for social and mix with guests.

# Suggestions for Getting Started

**These events are meant to be simple and easy to plan**

## **Planning Checklist:**

1. Be passionate about what you are doing.
2. Be clear about the events relationship to stewardship.
3. Invite a variety of new people to join the planning committee, exploring people gifted in the area of need:
  - Working and directing children/young people (if they are playing main roles)
  - Environment/Simple Set
  - Sewing Costumes
  - Food/Hospitality
  - Music
  - Publicity/Photos/Newsletter Articles
4. Target the group who will be directly involved in the event as characters. Will you chose children, youth, adults, a mixture?
5. Prior to the event, be sure to talk to participants about the meaning of stewardship and how the characters they are portraying were in one way or another people of prayer (time), service (talent), and sharing (treasure).
6. If you have many who want to be involved, do the event twice on different days.
7. Set the dates and reserve the spaces for practices as well as the event. Consider doing the event once in the evening and once on a Sunday following a Mass.
8. Discuss a small budget for the event taking into consideration donations of hospitality and fabric.
9. Make a simple promotion plan/schedule. How and when will the advertisement piece happen? Perhaps take a picture prior to the event for promotion.
10. Ask someone to take pictures of the event for your newsletter, bulletin boards, or to put together a simple slide show.
11. Make a supply checklist: Copies of prayer, commitment hearts, pencils, etc.
12. Consider asking people to bring a donation for the food pantry or St. Vincent's, etc.

## Hints for Costume Development

- Decide if adults or children/teens will portray the characters
- Check at the parish to see what might be available. Put an ad in the bulletin.
- If creating costumes, ask for volunteers from all generations (parents, grandparents, teens)
- If needed, consider the following patterns: McCall's Children: #2340 and #5905, Simplicity's Children: #2976, #4797, # 5448, McCall's Adult: #2060, #2339, Simplicity's Adult : #4213 and #4795
- Host a "coffee/tea cut and sew time for volunteers
- Offer packets of materials/patterns to be delivered or picked up at the parish for those who might want to sew at home
- Work with another parish to share ideas and costumes
- Angels could wear all white or where servers' robes and a simple halo.
- Ask for donations of sheets, blankets, unused fabric
- Look to old books or go online for ideas
- Include a computer generated official nametag for each character:

*John the Baptist*

Prepared the Way for Jesus

*Mary Magdalene*

First to see the Risen Jesus

*Lazarus*

Raised by Jesus

## Simple Environment Ideas

**General:** Make simple banners that say: **Friends of Jesus Pray Serve and Share**

### Lent

Large Signs: **Up Close and Personal with the Friends of Jesus**

- Large Cross either real or paper (on wall) on which to attach hearts
- Large Bible and stand
- Lenten purple fabric or cloth
- Candles
- Rocks and sand
- An optional display could be made. Ask those playing characters for a symbol that represents their character such as an apron for Martha or a candle or lantern for Nicodemus
- Purple placemats and napkins if serving a snack

# The Script

**Director of the Event:** Good morning (afternoon, evening) and welcome. We are excited about our “Up Close and Personal” event. We hope that you take many things from our time together today. We want this to be an enjoyable event that gives you a deeper look at some of those people who Jesus encountered, spent time with and befriended when he walked the earth. Though each of these people, like each of us, is imperfect, they all managed to find a way to share who they were and what they had. In the presence of Jesus, their hearts changed and they became stewards of their blessings from God. With this in mind, I would like to introduce one of heaven’s top archangels. Please help me to welcome our Master of Ceremonies the Archangel Raphael.

**Enter Raphael:**

**Angel Raphael:** I, Raphael, on behalf of the heavenly hosts and friends of Jesus, welcome you to this “holy” Lenten event. We are happy to be here at \_\_\_\_\_. As you may know, I am one of the three archangels mentioned in the Bible. You probably have heard of my colleagues Gabriel and Michael. Together with all the angels, we point to God’s presence in the world. We stand before the throne of God with others to serve in any way we are called. I am proud to be a steward of service. Raphael means: *God has healed* and one of my biggest adventures can be found in the Book of Tobit in the Old Testament. Be sure to read it when you can. When angels are involved, it is never a dull moment, right, heavenly hosts? (Raphael looks to the other angels present.)

In case you are wondering, the other angels and I are using our invisibility shield for our wings. The size of the room, the movement of the air and the noise would prohibit us from having a successful event. We also tempered our brightness for your comfort. Let’s begin our time together with a prayer.

**Opening Prayer:** We remember and are amazed that we are in the presence of our God as we begin: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” Lord, please accept our gratitude for the lives you touched when you walked the earth and the lives you have saved in your death on the cross. You loved your friends deeply with each encounter and their lives were transformed in your presence. Each friend became a steward through knowing you. Jesus, help us to grow in our knowledge of and our friendship with you so that we too can be better stewards of prayer, service and sharing this Lent. We ask this in friendship and love for you. Amen.

We have come together to meet some of the remarkable men and women that met Jesus face to face 2000 years ago. I am honored to have traveled with them here, today. You have come to know them and their stories through the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Weren't they great writers by the way? The Holy Spirit worked very closely with them. (Raphael holds up a Bible.)

As for our honored guests, each of them was very human in their lives on earth. Except for Mary, Jesus' mother, they were sinners often being impatient and lacking courage. Some were even possessed with demons. Can you believe it? Yet their hearts and ears were open enough to hear the message of Jesus. They became better people of prayer, service and sharing because of Jesus.

Can you imagine having been an eye witness to the life of Jesus? Have you ever considered what you might have thought or said? Do you think it would have been a challenge? Do you think it would have changed your life or the way you acted?

It is time to meet some of the friends of Jesus "up close and personal." Each person will tell you a little about themselves and because of their great humility, I will confirm how they were stewards in their time. Please help me welcome our most perfect model of stewardship, Jesus' mother, Mary.

**Mary, Mother of Jesus:** Watching Jesus grow up was such a joy to me. We had many wonderful times as a family and he became a carpenter by watching Joseph. When Joseph died, he cared for me as many sons did for their mothers in our day. One day, Jesus knew it was time for him to begin a new ministry. He encountered his cousin John at the Jordan River and was baptized. From then on, our life was different. Jesus traveled, told stories, cured people with illnesses and performed many miracles. He was so loving and kind. I watched with amazement because I knew he was the Son of God. He made many friends, some of whom are here today. Needless to say, my heart was broken when I stood at the foot of the cross. Like many mothers, I wished I could have taken the pain from him but it was not God's will. But do know, three days later and forevermore, my favorite saying became "My Son has Risen! Alleluia"

**Raphael:** Thank you, Mary. You were such a good steward not only for letting God work through you by becoming the mother of Jesus but also by raising him and caring for him. Your "yes" to God's will helped to bring salvation to the world. Jesus' friends couldn't help but to become your friends, too. You showed them and you continue to demonstrate to us what it means to be a good steward. Now please welcome, Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist.

**John the Baptist:** I had the honor of trying to help people get ready for the coming of the Messiah. Through my simple life in the desert, I asked everyone who would listen to turn away from their sinfulness, to give to the poor and to be kind to those who are weaker. Sometimes people thought I was the Messiah, but I made it clear that I was not. When my cousin Jesus presented himself to me to be baptized, I was overwhelmed in his presence. He insisted and I gave in to his request. I knew he was the Savior and my mission was ending. I told my followers to follow him. It was time. My own cousin became the Savior of the world. Amazing!

**Raphael:** We are proud of John the Baptist. His whole life was dedicated to helping others to get ready to welcome the Savior. He was not afraid. He did not hold back. As a good steward, he put everything on the line for Jesus. He was a humble man who did not want to take the spotlight off of God. John used his life to challenge the people to make their path straight and to turn away from sin. John the Baptist died because of his preaching. How might you use this message to help you in your friendship with Jesus this Lent?

**Mary Magdalene:** I could hardly wait to be here today. Jesus was such a dear friend to me and it all began when he came to me in my darkest hour when demons lived in me and cured me. My life would never be the same and I had to follow him and be of help in his ministry. How could I have been so blessed to live in this place and time? I witnessed so many loving miraculous events. My saddest moment was when I stood at the foot of the cross. I was heartbroken but when Jesus spoke my name on the day of his resurrection, my heart sang. I am one of the most blessed humans ever to have lived.

**Raphael:** Mary Magdalene, along with a group of women, was a follower of Jesus. She was a woman of great generosity, courage and steward of her life. She was one of only three people who stood at the foot of the cross as Jesus died. Jesus appreciated Mary so much that he chose to appear to her first after he rose. As a steward of the Good News of Jesus' resurrection, she told everyone!! Now that is friendship! Okay, I always know when Peter is in the house because I can hear his keys, jingling. Please help me welcome one of the twelve, the Apostle Peter.

**Peter:** Yes, you may know me as the Apostle that became the first Pope and the "rock" upon which Jesus built his Church but here is so much more to the story than that. My brother Andrew and I were simple, hardworking fisherman when we met Jesus. It was not easy to just pick up and follow him. Yet, there was something very interesting and "holy" about him. As we joined him in his travels and watched him teach, heal and love the people, it became easier to recognize him as the Son of God. As for me, I was a very impatient man and made so many mistakes. I even denied Jesus when he needed me the most. I felt so guilty. But, I was forgiven. Can you imagine that? Even though you try hard to be a good disciple of Jesus, do you ever need forgiveness? Jesus said we could forgive in his Name.

**Raphael:** Peter, Dear Peter. It is easy to point out how Peter was a great steward of his life. He left his family to serve Jesus and to learn the lessons of the Savior. After Jesus went to heaven and with the help of the Holy Spirit, he worked with the other disciples to spread the Good News and begin a new Church. His life was not always easy and at the end he was crucified upside down as a Christian. Yet, one of the most important things about Peter is that he was not perfect. Jesus, saw and used the gifts in Peter and forgave the faults. How many of you have gifts to share as well as sins that need forgiveness? Now, please help me welcome the Apostle John.

**Apostle John:** Jesus was an amazing, loving and kind person. He also had a sense of humor. Can you believe that he called my brother James and me “Sons of Thunder?” We must have been very loud men. I was a simple fisherman, yet fortunate enough to witness some of most incredible moments in Jesus’ life on earth. I was at the Transfiguration when Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus and God spoke. Oh my gosh, it was scary but yet we knew that Jesus was truly the Son of God. I was the only male follower at the foot of the cross when Jesus was dying. Before his last breath, he said that his mother Mary was my mother, too. I decided to love and care for her until her death. It was not a difficult task. All that Jesus had done for us, it was the least I could do. After Jesus’ rising, I worked with the other apostles and disciples to spread the “Good News.” My friends would go on to write about my experiences with Jesus.

**Raphael:** John was the “one Jesus loved” for a reason. The Gospel tells us that he rested his head on Jesus at the Last Supper. He was a good steward of all he had learned and encountered in the presence of Jesus. When you read the Gospel and Letters in the Bible written by his friends using John’s name, you know that he cared a great deal for people. Love and service for others are powerful messages in the Gospel and Letters of John. If one of your friends were to write about your life, what would they write? Please put your hands together John’s older brother, James.

**James the Greater:** I cannot tell you how amazed I am to have been chosen to be a witness to many of the most incredible moments in Jesus’ ministry. To think that he trusted *me*, a simple fisherman and was able to call me friend is almost overwhelming. One of the most outstanding memories for me of Jesus was when he healed the twelve year old daughter of Jairus, a synagogue official. The first experience took my breath away. The raising of the young girl taught me that the faith of Jairus and the power of God brought forth a miracle. I wanted *my* faith in Jesus to be *that* strong. Second, I was also with Jesus when he went to pray in the garden of Gethsemane following our last Passover meal together. He asked Peter, John and me to wait while he prayed. He seemed nervous and sad. Of course, we let him down and kept falling asleep. He knew that he was about to be arrested and his journey to the cross would begin. I wished I would have been smarter and listened more carefully to him. Do you ever feel that way in a decision you have made? But Jesus would forgive us and after

he rose from the dead and ascended to heaven, he sent his Spirit to help us build his Church. Thank heavens that wisdom is one of the gifts of the Spirit!

**Raphael:** James would go on to have great faith and courage! During the time when it was dangerous in Judea to be a Jewish Christian, James continued to spread the Good News of his friend Jesus. James was allowed to be a witness to so many of the important moments in Jesus life and he was a good steward of that opportunity. He became a leader in building Christianity. He was killed by Herod for his work. Do you ever have the opportunity to see God working in your life? Are you able to tell others about it? It is time to welcome Martha of Bethany.

**Martha of Bethany:** Greetings. I'm honored to be traveling with Raphael, my brother and sister and other friends, today. Talking about Jesus is an honor. My sister Mary, brother Lazarus and I had a home about 2 miles outside of Jerusalem. We were fortunate enough to be able to entertain others. My special gift was hospitality and serving others (I hear you are having some wonderful treats here today.) Yet, Jesus reminded me that sometimes it is important to be still. When Jesus came after Lazarus died, I knew he was the Messiah, and that God would do what he asked. I will never forget the day he raised Lazarus. Are there times when you need to be a good steward of your time and listen to Jesus? When are you hospitable and serve others?

**Raphael:** Jesus' friend Martha was a great steward. She shared her home and she shared her food out of love for her guests. When Jesus questioned her about her busyness, she heard her Lord's message. Upon Jesus next visit, Martha was the first person out of the house to meet him leaving her guests behind. Jesus appreciated her friendship and raised her brother from the dead. Do you have things that worry or trouble you that keep you from spending time with Jesus? Please put your hands together for Lazarus of Bethany.

**Lazarus of Bethany:** Greetings. How many of you have sisters? Well, then you may know just a little of what my life was like. Yes, Martha and Mary of Bethany are my sisters. Jesus was a great friend to us and visited our home on many occasions. Like many of you perhaps, we did not recognize him as the Son of God, instantly. For me, I needed to hear his words and watch his ministry unfold. In the end, Jesus performed an incredible act of love for me and my family. I became very ill and died before Jesus returned to Bethany. As a sign to his followers of who he was, and as a gift to my family he raised me from the dead. The word of this great miracle spread quickly to those who wanted to kill Jesus. He had very little time left. I am grateful to my friend for the extra time I was given with my sisters and for my salvation.

**Raphael:** Lazarus was truly an amazing man and friend to Jesus. He was a steward of his home and his friendship. There were not too many places where Jesus felt comfortable and safe toward the end. Not many were loyal and could be counted upon. Lazarus allowed Jesus to work through him. It would be wonderful if you could be a friend to a weary traveler today and allow Jesus to show his great love through you. Please welcome Lazarus' sister, Mary of Bethany.

**Mary of Bethany:** What a pleasure it is for me to be with you today. I love to be out talking to people about my friend, Jesus. Even though I did not fully realize who Jesus was at first, I knew he was something special. I was pleased whenever he came to visit and I didn't want to miss a word that he said. His messages were simple yet loving. You should have been there when he raised my brother Lazarus from the dead. Everyone was crying at the wonder of this miracle. Not long after, Jesus visited us just before the Passover. I was so moved by his presence that I anointed his feet with oil and dried them with my hair. I am glad I did because a few days later, he died.

**Raphael:** Our dear Mary was a perfect steward of her time. Today we are good stewards of our time when we spend time with Jesus in prayer. Mary actually got to spend time *with Jesus* and she did not waste a moment. She was inspired by Jesus and was one of the few who eventually recognized him as the Messiah. Could you have the same experience sitting with Jesus each day? Please help me to welcome, Nicodemus.

**Nicodemus:** Hello, everyone. I cannot tell you how my encounters with Jesus affected and changed my life. When we first met I was a member of the Jewish ruling organization known as the Sanhedrin. I was living the life of a well respected Jewish teacher and thought not too many people knew more than me about God and living a holy life. (Have any of you ever thought that you knew it all?) One night out of curiosity, I went to visit Jesus. Well, who knew that I would encounter the Son of God in the flesh! He was a true Rabbi! I could never draw so many people and captivate so many hearts with my teaching. His words were simple, truthful and loving. In the end, he won my heart and gave me courage. I was saddened at his death but I am eternally grateful for my salvation.

**Raphael:** Nicodemus was a very intelligent and well trained religious leader who left his mind and heart open to a Messiah that no one expected. Nicodemus would share his gifts to defend Jesus in some heated arguments with other members of the Sanhedrin. He was also a brave and generous steward after Jesus' death. He brought an extreme amount of myrrh and aloes to assist in Jesus' burial.

**Joseph of Arimathea:** Good day, my friends. I just have to tell you that I was secretly drawn to Jesus from the first time I heard him speak. Was he the Messiah I was awaiting? As a member of the Sanhedrin, it was unpopular to show any support for him. I have to say that I was afraid in those days. At the time they were having the discussion on whether to or not to condemn Jesus, I was able to withdraw from the discussion. However, when I saw Jesus on the cross, my heart was moved with so much sorrow that I asked Pilate for his body. I owned an unused tomb and was able to place him there. On the third day, no one in Jerusalem was happier than me!

**Raphael:** There is a reason that Joseph of Arimathea is referred to as a “virtuous and righteous man” in the Bible. He was a wealthy Jewish man of his day, yet he had a heart for what was right. He was a generous steward when he put his fears aside and boldly asked for Jesus’ body. Joseph used his own property to lay our broken Savior’s body. It was a dangerous thing for him to do. God want us to share the blessings you have, too. What might you offer to share with others in need?

We hope that you have been inspired by the stewards of Lent and friends of Jesus that have joined us today. At this time we would like all of you to take a paper heart and write down a way that you would want to be a better steward of prayer, service or sharing this Lent. You will be asked to attach your heart to the cross during our closing prayer service. Jesus died so each of us could have abundant life and so that we could be his friend, be joyful and share that abundance with others.

(Optional) We will now hear from one of our entries in the “Favorite Steward and Friends of Jesus” Contest. When complete, Mary will award the prize. (Perhaps the book *The Easter Angels* by Bob Hartman)

On behalf of the heavenly hosts and the friends of Jesus, I would like to thank you for sharing this time with us. To be a steward is to be pleasing to God. Blessings as you continue your Lenten journey.

**Director of the Event:** Thank you, Raphael. We look forward to joining you in the Alleluia on Easter morning! I would like to take a moment before our closing prayer to thank the great stewards who helped put this event together (Applause). Please join us for refreshments following prayer. **Let us pray. (You can use the enclosed prayer or create something new.)**

# *Stewards and Friends of Jesus*

## **Pray for Us!**

**Opening Song:** *Beyond the Days* by Ricky Manalo vs. 1 and 2

**Leader:** Having heard some of the stories of the friends of Jesus who were stewards in their day, let us stand and ask for their help on our Lenten Journey. May we grow in friendship with Jesus and become better stewards through faith filled prayer, compassionate service and generous sharing.

**Adults:** Beautiful Mary and Mother of Jesus, you helped to bring our salvation into the world and nurture him to adulthood. You also stood by the cross in your Son's darkest hour. As the perfect model of stewardship, you completely gave your life to God. Pray for us!

**Teens/Children:** St. John the Baptist, courageous and a clear voice in the wilderness dedicating your life to preparing the world for one of its most important moments. We want our lives to point to Jesus. Pray for us!

**Adults:** St. Mary Magdalene, you were a wonderful friend with a fierce loyalty to Jesus. We want to see the risen Lord in a new way this Easter. Pray for us!

**Teens/Children:** St. Peter, strong, yet very human, you persevered in your friendship with Jesus. We want to be courageous and persevere in our Lenten journey. Pray for us!

**Adults:** St. John, you were a loving friend for whom Jesus expressed his great affection. We want to stand with Jesus even when it is unpopular. Pray for us!

**Teens/Children:** St. James, you were allowed to be witness to some of Jesus' most important moments and it changed your life. We want to recognize Jesus in the moments of our lives. . Pray for us!

**Adults:** St. Martha of Bethany, your gifts were homemaking and welcoming. You were able to share them with the ultimate Guest. We want to invite Jesus to be with us in a special way this Lent. Pray for us!

**Teens/Children:** St. Lazarus of Bethany, a dear friend to Jesus, you experienced the ultimate power of God to be seen in your being raised from the dead. We want to be friends with Jesus and use our lives to point to God. Pray for us!

**Adults:** St. Mary of Bethany, you were so attentive to what is important in life and generous with your resources. We want to love Jesus like you. Pray for us!

**Teens/ Children:** St. Nicodemus, you were a learned, kind man of your day who was open to the truth. We want to see Jesus in a new way this Lent. Pray for us!

**Adults:** St. Joseph of Arimathea, you were blessed with knowledge and wealth and you used them to support Jesus. We want to put our blessings at the foot of the cross this Lent to be used in Jesus' service. Pray for us!

**Leader:** Jesus' friends on earth were like you and me. They were blessed in many ways with talents and struggled with human failings. Yet in the presence of Jesus their lives were changed and transformed. As we sing the closing verses of our song, let us place our hearts on the cross so that our lives can be changed and we cannot become better stewards of prayer, service and sharing. Lord, bless our efforts this Lent. In your name we pray.

**All: Amen!**

**Closing Song:** *Beyond the Days* by Ricky Manalo vs. 3 and 4

# The Stewards in Scripture and Liturgical Year

## ADVENT – LENT – PENTECOST - FEAST OF ALL SAINTS

“The world is charged with the grandeur of God,” Gerard Manly Hopkins exclaims “more than anything else, it may be this glimpse of the divine grandeur in all that sets people on the path of Christian stewardship.” This beautiful quotation found in *Stewardship a Disciple’s Response*, written by the USCCB, points to the potential for all i.e., past, present and future, to become joyful stewards. There is great benefit and enjoyment in connecting all time under the umbrella of the same awesome God.

Our world has been charged with divine grandeur since our Creator loved us into being. As our many unlikely ancestors in salvation history encountered their maker, they found a way to be in a relationship with their Lord, God. In this liaison, those whose lives pointed to and helped prepare for the coming of Jesus, exhibited qualities of stewardship. For the likes of Abraham and Sarah, Joseph, Moses, Ruth, David, Joseph and Mary, prayer, service and sharing were responses to the presence of the “divine grandeur” in their lives.

God was fully revealed in Jesus. When he walked the earth and following his death and resurrection, the first disciples were in awe of their divine encounter. For John the Baptist, Mary Magdalene, Martha, Lazarus, Nicodemus, Peter, John and the other Apostles, his message of love and salvation changed and transformed their lives. Ordinary people encountered God and their path changed.

The Pentecost event set the many transformed lives on a course. They became stewards. Their priorities were spreading the “Good News” and modeling His “way of living.” They took time for prayer, they “washed one another’s feet” using their gifts and they shared their material and financial resources. Many gave their lives for His way of living and in the meantime gave birth to a new Church. For Paul, Stephen, Barnabas, Priscilla and Lydia, Prisca and Aquila, Phoebe and Junia (Julia), prayer, service and sharing was the foundation on which they lived their lives.

The Holy Spirit, working through our Church has inspired the lives of many people in the last 2000 years. We lift up the extraordinary lives of these stewards we call Saints. Their “way of life” is an inspiration to those of us who strive to be true disciples and stewards in our time. Blessed Mother Teresa, Miguel Pro, Elizabeth of Hungary, Francis of Assisi, Juan Diego, and Elizabeth Seton are to be admired as some of the notable Christian stewards of their day and speak to what can happen when we encounter the “grandeur of God.”

We are blessed to be members of a Church that holds high the Scriptures and the rich traditions of the liturgical year. If we enter into them with an open heart, we will find wonderful models and messages of stewardship and the opportunity to take our own life of a Christian steward to the next level. Enjoy the events found in this packet. May they joyfully assist you in parish stewardship efforts.