



Stewardship Reflection

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My faith has always been an integral part of my life. However, I often felt isolated and would leave Mass with little emotion or insight. Something had to change and I knew that I was the only one who could make those changes.

Father Martin's arrival at St. James in 2014 significantly impacted my spiritual journey. In his initial homily, he advised the parishioners, "My job is to get you to Heaven." His words resonated and encouraged me to reflect on my own journey of faith. Was I doing enough for myself, my family, and my church? Was I being a good steward in the eyes of God?

Prior to 2014, I was an "average" Catholic. I attended Mass weekly, tithed, celebrated the sacraments, and participated in various ministries; but was I involved? I forced myself to reflect on the difficult questions. What do I believe? What do I value? What are my dreams for myself and my family?

Those of you who know me, know I am either "all in" or "all out". Following my self-reflection, I decided to be "all in". I started volunteering at St. Vincent DePaul and met so many other volunteers. It quickly became a place that brought me joy and purpose. I was amazed at how fulfilling it was to be part of an organization that positively impacts our community. As weeks passed, I started to see fellow volunteers at Mass and realized I had a group of new friends who were also actively pursuing their journey of faith and helping me do the same.

Through my ministry involvement with St. Vincent DePaul, Stewardship and other ministries, I now realize that stewardship is identifying our talents and giving to others. In order to serve God, I had to challenge myself and accept that stewardship and faith are not simple doctrines but necessary actions in our journey of faith.