

Stewardship Echoes in the Liturgy

A stewardship walk through the Mass

Gloria

"We worship you, we give you thanks..."

Penitential rite

"...in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do..."

Creed

"We believe in one God...maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen..."

Preparation of the gifts

"Through your goodness we have this bread to offer..."

"Through your goodness we have this wine to offer..."

Dialogue before the Preface

"Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." / "It is right to give him thanks and praise."

Preface for Sundays in ordinary Time V

Father, all powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks. All things are of your making, all times and seasons obey your laws, but you chose to create man in your own image, setting him over the whole world in all its wonder. You made man the steward of creation..."

Eucharistic Prayer I

Beginning - "We come to you, Father, with praise and thanksgiving, through Jesus Christ your Son. Through him we ask you to accept and bless these gifts we offer you in sacrifice."

End - "Through him you give us all these gifts. You fill them with life and goodness, you bless them and make them holy."

Eucharistic Prayer II

"Father, it is our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ."

Eucharistic Prayer III

Beginning - "All life, all holiness comes from you... From age to age you gather a people to yourself, so that from east to west a perfect sacrifice may be made to the glory of your name...And so, Father, we bring you these gifts..."

End - "may he make us an everlasting gift to you..."

Eucharistic prayer IV

"Source of life and goodness, you have created all things to fill your creatures with every blessing."

Lord's Prayer

Acknowledges God as Father, as Provider and Source of all we need. We pray for the coming of the Kingdom knowing that we have a part to play. God has given us all the gifts we need to do the work to which he calls us, not alone, but together. "Give us this day our daily bread..." We ask the Lord for what we need, just for today, and to free us from whatever impediments keep us from serving him with our whole hearts. For, ultimately, we know that everything is and was and ever has been God's - "the kingdom, the power, and the glory."

Dismissal dialogue

"Go in peace to love and serve the Lord."—Urges us to use our gifts in service.
"Thanks be to God!"—We will, in thanksgiving for God's gifts.

Gifts-A Stewardship Meditation on the Eucharist*

(Refrain based on 1 Chronicles 29:14) Sharon Hueckel

We bring you these gifts, Father, of bread and wine. And even as we offer them, we know that they are your gifts to us, not ours to you!

Everything is a gift from You, oh Lord. We can only give back what is yours already.

Yours are the springtime and harvest, sunshine and rain, and the precious promise of life hidden deep in each grain of the wheat.

Everything is a gift from You, oh Lord. We can only give back what is Yours already.

Yours, too, all who labor to plant and to gather, to mill the flour and shape the loaves—all whose efforts combine in this bread which we bring to the altar.

Everything is a gift from You, oh Lord. We can only give back what is Yours already.

They also belong to you who grow the grapes and press them lovingly into wine, waiting with patience of the time of its perfection.

Everything is a gift from You, oh Lord. We can only give back what is Yours already.

Truly, Father, they are your gifts and the work of other hands, offered now as the gift of ourselves—the bread of our everyday to be food for our souls, the wine of our glad times to save us from sin.

Everything is a gift from You, oh Lord. We can only give back what is Yours already.

Simple gifts, Lord—and yours, not ours! Even so do we offer them and ask that you make them worthy of yourself.

Everything is a gift from You, oh Lord. We can only give back what is Yours already.

But, oh, Lord, if you will but bless our gifts-your gifts-with your own spirit, infuse them with yourself!

Everything is a gift from You, oh Lord. We can only give back what is Yours already.

“This is my body!” you said. “This is my blood!” If you will bless and be present, Lord-now as at that first Eucharist-then, only then, will we have a fit offering for the Lord, the King of the Universe!

Everything is a gift from You, oh Lord. We can only give back what is Yours already.

Oh Lord, you are Gift and Giver! With wonder and awe we give you thanks-our love and gratitude the only fits that are ours to bring. And of these, too, we humbly say,

Everything is a gift from You, oh Lord. We can only give back what is Yours already.

All: Thanks be to God!

A Steward’s Act of Contrition

Oh my God, I am heartily sorry for these and all my sins, those spoken aloud and those buried, unremembered, in my heart. I know that you have given me all that I am and have, that it is your love only that holds me in being. I am sorry for having misused your gifts, for having presumed on your love. Forgive me for Jesus’ sake and, with the help of your Holy Spirit, I will sin no more. Amen.

*Adapted from the original in *Pray Always and Never Lose Hear*, a collection of stewardship prayers available from the National Catholic Stewardship Council, Inc. 1275 K. St, N.W., Suite 980, Washington, D.C., 20005-4006, or by calling (202) 289-1093

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Comment [K1]: Needs to be a pdf, not a word file

Sharon Hueckel from the International Catholic Stewardship Council has generously given us permission to share her notes on the Eucharist and Stewardship.