

## PART III WRITTEN REFLECTIVE EXERCISE

*Name some gifts or blessings from God that you are grateful for:*

*In the next year, what are some different ways in which you could express your gratefulness to God?*

### CONCLUDING PRAYER

*Psalm 116:12-19*

What will I give back to God in thanksgiving for the many blessings I have received? I will lift up the cup of salvation. . . O LORD, I am your servant . . . You have loosed my bonds. I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD. I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people. . . Praise the LORD!



*We give thanks and praise to God and conclude our prayer ✠ in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

### HOW WILL YOU RESPOND?

Every year you will have the opportunity to reflect on and re-evaluate your giving in light of your commitment to your faith. As you decide on the percentage of your income to give, you will be asked to consider giving one-half of that amount to our parish and one-half to other charities.

You will be receiving the **“Take a Step”** Planning Guide/Commitment Card to help you determine the percentage of your income you wish to commit to Sacrificial Giving for this next year. Please fill out and tear off the commitment card attached to it and return it to the parish. This enables our parish leaders to plan a budget for the year. Please use the Sunday envelope each week as the way in which you offer your gift to our parish.



### Sacrificial Giving

is a necessary expression of our faith, of what we say we believe. We channel a portion of our giving through our parish because it is the body which most clearly bears witness to the meaning and values we find at the center of our lives.

# A Grateful Prayer of Thanksgiving



**Sacrificial Giving 2012**  
*Fostering Stewardship as a way of life*

## Reflective Prayer Exercise on

# “Giving Thanks to God – Gratefully”

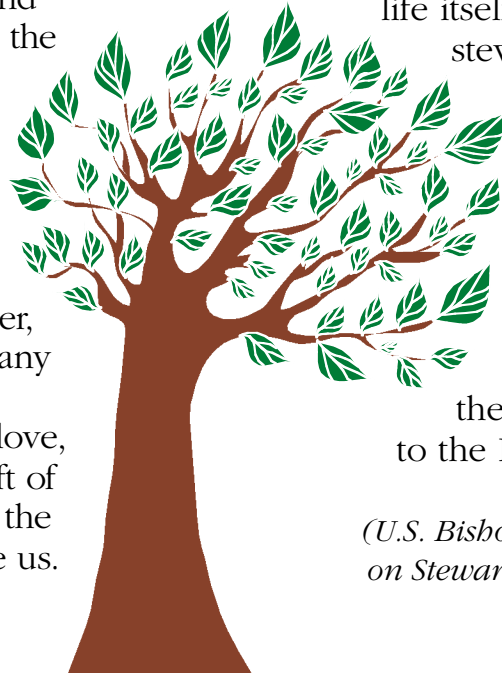
We begin our prayer ✠ in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



### PART I REFLECTIVE INTRODUCTORY READING

God has blessed us immeasurably!

- With the gift of life and the beauty of creation
- A place to live, food, and other needs
- Family, friends, neighbors, community, and country
- The gift of our faith, the Eucharist and other sacraments, Sacred Scripture, the Church, and our parish
- People who depend on us, and people who we can depend upon
- Tasks to accomplish, roles to fulfill, and missions to carry out
- So many little things: chocolate, a good book, flowers, a warm shower, the sunset, moon and stars, and many others . . .
- With the warmth and caring of His love, so profound that He sent us the gift of His only Son for our salvation and the Holy Spirit to strengthen and guide us.



The practice of the Stewardship of Time, Talent and Treasure is a grateful response to our deep heartfelt desire to give something back to God in thanksgiving for all we have received, including the gift of life itself. “As Christian stewards, we receive God’s gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord.”

*(U.S. Bishops’ Pastoral Letter on Stewardship)*

### PART II THE GOSPEL STORY OF THE TEN LEPERS

The following Gospel story illustrates how one particular person in history expressed his gratefulness to God in response to receiving a very special blessing.

*On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”*

*Luke 17:11-19*