

Tuesday, March 2
 Readings: Psalm 105:1-15, 42
 Numbers 14:10b-24
 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

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Obey responsibly

to glorify God as a faithful proclamation of God's word. We acknowledge our faith and show our faith in the gospel for the glory of God and for the building up of the body of Christ. This takes courage. It involves our life-long obedience, including the ways we treat our families, others, and ourselves.

**"... you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ."
 2 Corinthians 9:13**

Prayer: *O God, you teach in the Holy Scripture that we are to care for those who have little and are poor. Remind us that as we give our offering that we are contributing to those who are the least, the lost, and the last. Daily may we remember the words of Jesus, who taught us, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40) Help us remember just how much we truly have.²⁸ In Jesus name, Amen.*

Focal Verse: "Forgive the iniquity of this people according to the greatness of your steadfast love, just as you have pardoned this people, from Egypt even until now." Exodus 14:19

Reflection: How can the concept of stewardship help us to be vital communities of faith committed to Word, sacrament and service?

A stewardship parish is a community of faith where the Word of God is taken seriously. Through effective proclamation in the liturgy, faith-filled catechesis (including parochial education and religious education for adults, youth and children), community prayer and devotions, and genuine faith-sharing (evangelization), God's Word comes alive in our parishes. It speaks to our hearts - challenging us to change (conversion) and to let Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, become the meaning and purpose of our lives. A stewardship parish takes seriously its responsibility to be a faithful steward of the Word of God.

A stewardship parish is a sacramental community. Its gratitude is expressed first and foremost in the Eucharist, the great prayer of thanksgiving, in which the Lord Jesus offers Himself to the Father and shares with us the gift of his Body and Blood.

A stewardship parish dedicates itself wholeheartedly to Christian service. Sharing with others - both within and beyond parish boundaries - is a hallmark of Christian stewardship. A community that only focuses its time, attention and resources on its own needs is not a Christian community, and it is not a good steward of the gifts and blessings the Lord bestows on his Church. A stewardship parish develops all its gifts (material and spiritual) and shares them generously with others.²⁹

What do you hear?

How does it make you feel?

Toward what are you being drawn?

What do you sense you should do?

²⁸ Mosser, David, Stewardship Services, © 2007, Abingdon Press, p. 62.

²⁹ The Most Reverend Paul A. Zipfel, Bishop of Bismarck, North Dakota; www.dcdiocese.org