

Thursday, March 4

Readings: Psalm 63:1-8
Daniel 3:19-30
Revelation 2:8-11

Prayer: *Heavenly Father you direct all that we do. Following your word, we ask, search and knock trusting in your sure and certain promise that whatever is done in your name, consistent with your will comes to fruition through your grace. In Jesus name. Amen*

Focal Verse: "I know your affliction and your poverty, even though you are rich." Revelation 2:9a

Reflection:

Individual Christians live stewardship through the four characteristics of gratitude, responsibility, generosity and the willingness to give back with increase. Parishes express their stewardship responsibilities through proclamation of God's Word, through reverent and sincere celebration of the sacraments, and through a profound commitment to Christian service.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we will all be asked to render an account of our "ambassadorship," our ability to represent him in our words and our actions. A stewardship diocese, therefore, is one that witnesses to the importance of transparency and accountability - in its decision-making, in its development and use of resources, and in all its financial affairs. To be transparent means to let the light of truth shine on us, to admit our mistakes and to work harder than ever to be faithful stewards of our God-given mission.

A stewardship diocese should be generous with its human, physical and financial resources. We should share with one another - and with other dioceses in need throughout the world.³¹

Stewardship Principle

4

Give willingly

as moved by the Holy Spirit. We have been prepared to give ourselves. We give our time, talents, and resources freely.

"For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave ..."
2 Corinthians 8:3

What do you hear?

How does it make you feel?

Toward what are you being drawn?

What do you sense you should do?

³¹ The Most Reverend Paul A. Zipfel, Bishop of Bismarck, North Dakota; www.dcdiocese.org