

**Stewardship Message**  
**Diamond Serevetas**  
**1985**

I was asked by Father Ernie to speak to you about Stewardship. So, I thought of telling you my story and what our Church means to me and my family.

A lot of us immigrants know how hard it is in the beginning to stand on your own feet especially when you have little children as I have. And, with God's help, we did.

I remember my mother's last words before I left Greece. "Don't forget now that you are going to the new country, you have to teach your children the Orthodox Faith and the Greek language". It was urgent for me to find a Church for my children. When I heard of the new Church in Parkville, I took them. What a beautiful group of people I met. They accepted me with hearts and arms. It was Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church. I not only found a Church, I found a family.

The services were performed in the auditorium of a high school. Blessed Mother's Vespers were performed at Mrs. Maniatis' or some place else for Holy Week. That was my second home. God blessed and at that time sent us a wonderful priest, Father Ernest Arambiges. A very humble and hard working Father. That was what we needed at that time. Zeal and the help of a group of people that we all know, the auditorium became a beautiful piece of land and then a roomy building with a nice hall for our services, Sunday School and now a wonderful Church. But we didn't finish, we had just started.

Our Church needs to be finished for two reasons, first for the glory of God and second for our children and grandchildren to be able to continue their religious duties.

In order for this to be done we all are called to help and that is Stewardship. To help in any way we can. Anyone can be a Steward. We have to give money, of course, because we all know how expensive it is to maintain our building and our Church. We are called not to give any more in a form of membership but Stewardship. Give to God as much as anybody can according to his economical situation. We also have to give of our time. There are so many things we can do like clean our grounds, plant trees and flowers, help in festivals, work for Sunday School and so on.

Let us get together and do it for the Glory of God. Now is the time.