

**Stewardship Message**  
**Thorina Trintis**  
**October 29, 2006**

*In the name of the Father, Son & Holy Spirit*  
Good Morning to my Saint Demetrios Family!

When asked to speak on Stewardship, I questioned, “why me?” and the reply was “why not you?” Indeed, why NOT? We have been members of our beloved Saint Demetrios Church since its inception and have taken an active interest from day one. Why? Because, as many of us, we have learned by example: Bill’s parents began by being active at The Annunciation Church (now Cathedral) when they first came to Baltimore – his father becoming Treasurer of the parish council. And my parents later became involved at the then new Saint Nicholas Church – my father served on the parish council for many years, and my mother served as an officer of Philoptochos. I remember that on most days of the week, you could find at least one member of our family at the church – assisting in various capacities. Both of our parents understood how important it was to work for the church while also striving hard to make a living for their families under tough circumstances. Thus, the seed was planted .....

Webster’s Dictionary defines stewardship as “*the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care*”.

The Christian meaning of stewardship refers to *the responsibility that Christians have in maintaining and using wisely the gifts that God has bestowed – being time, talent, and treasure*. My own personal meaning of stewardship is in one word: **BLESSINGS!** And yes, I do refer to my family – not only my personal family but also my spiritual family here at Saint Demetrios Church. And this has come about by taking part in the many ministries which are offered here: some of which are the play, festival, bible study, Day School, etc. By sharing in these various endeavors, we have cemented old relationships and formed new and lasting ones.

However, these ministries don’t happen by just meeting together. It takes financial resources to make them come about and bring them to fruition. And I firmly believe that the harder you work towards a goal, the more you will reap from it. Just as in personal relationships, the more you do for someone, the more that person wants to do for you, never taking each other for granted – witness the fact that Bill and I have been married for 41 years. And so it should be with our personal relationship to God and our church. God has sacrificed His only Son for us that whosoever believes in Him shall everlasting life. Well then, is it too much to ask how much can you give back to God and your church to keep that relationship a truly rewarding and lasting one? As my late Uncle Chris would always say, “You can be whatever you want in this life, but always be the best!” Then, in being a steward of our church, let’s be the BEST that we can be by truly examining our hearts and praying to God for guidance as we once again decide how much we can give to our Saint Demetrios Church for 2007.

When Lea Loucas gave her stewardship message in 1985 as we began this new concept, she recited the following poem that her father taught her which I thought is still so appropriate:

*The more you give, the more you get  
 The more you laugh, the less you fret  
 The more you do unselfishly,  
 the more you live abundantly.  
 The more of everything you share  
 The more you'll always have to spare  
 The more you love, the more you'll find  
 That life is good and friends are kind.  
For only what you give away  
Enriches you from day to day.*

And what does it mean, “*what you give away*”? It has been said that, “*generosity is one of the primary ways in which Christians evidence the fruit of the Spirit at work in their lives.*” My mother would say that there were times when she knew it would be difficult to make ends meet, but God would always seem to provide in His own way. And lo and behold, she would even have enough and be able to share and help others.

Holy Scripture makes it clear to us that God gives back to us what we give to Him. Jesus said, “*Give and it shall be given to you. For with the same measure you measure, it shall be measured to you.*” (Luke 6:38)

And now to get a little personal - It’s hard to believe that when Saint Demetrios began, Bill and I were one of the youngest families – our son was born that year, 1969, and our daughter was almost 2. In those formative years known as the Suburban Ladies Society, I served as secretary at the age of 24. When we put on our first Broadway show, *Fiddler on the Roof*, I played the role of Yente @ only 28 years old! Bill was 31 years old when he became the 2<sup>nd</sup> Parish Council President to serve our community (and I might add, at the same time also served as president of Ahepa). I share this with you because it’s important that our young families realize that you can find the time to exhibit your talent and give of your treasure to help your church if you desire so strongly enough. Maybe priorities need to be re-examined, but STEWARDSHIP needs to become a way of life!

And now we have our “Magnificent 7” as my brother-in-law, Nick, affectionately calls our grandchildren. This is what I mean by “BLESSINGS!” It has become more evident to me that we, even as grandparents now, need to continue our giving of time, talent, and treasure for these future generations to learn by our example to become the potential leaders and good stewards of our beloved Saint Demetrios Church. For it is good to give “*because we believe in God’s promise that in the end, the kingdom of God is the only one that will last.*”

I want to leave you with the following thoughts to ponder originally written by Michael Josephson:

*“So what will matter .....  
 and how will the value of your days be measured?  
 What will matter is not what you bought,  
 But what you built  
 Not what you got, but what you gave!”*

So choose to live a life that matters ..... and be that fine example of a responsible Steward of our Saint Demetrios Church which has been entrusted to us  
“for the glory of God!”