

To be read at all Masses the weekend of November 12 & 13, 2011



Diocese of Ogdensburg

Office of the Bishop

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November 13, 2011

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

When we take a moment to prayerfully reflect upon our lives, we often find that we experienced the truest joy and satisfaction when we were at the service of others. God knows our struggles and burdens. God also knows how we, even in the most difficult times of our lives, can help others by sharing our time, talent and treasure.

We are all, from the youngest to the most senior parishioners, stewards of God's gifts, making each one of us a valued member of our parish and community. When selecting a gift for a loved one, we don't quickly run into the store fifteen minutes before closing time. We think about the person receiving our gift and ask ourselves what would they most appreciate and treasure. In a certain sense, similar to the way we select the "perfect gift" for a loved one, our God has carefully planned the unique gifts and talents we possess.

On this Stewardship Sunday, please prayerfully reflect upon your unique gifts and talents. Ask yourself: "How can I serve my parish and community with the gifts God has given me?"

I invite you to talk with your pastor about those ministries in your parish where you can share your time and talent. Our family of faith will be strengthened and renewed through your service. Do not be afraid to "unwrap" the gifts that God has given you!

Thank you for your active participation in the faith life of your parish. May God's blessing be upon you and your family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry R. LaValley".

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg