

# A Stewardship Minute

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving  
An introduction of **Stewardship** to the congregation

August 2019

A 12th century young Italian man named Giovanni de Bernadone had a wealthy father, who often went to France and nicknamed his son Francis. Young Francis could wear the finest of clothes, have an expensive carriage and go to parties where the rich frolicked together. In short, he could have whatever money could buy. Young Francis, however, began to mature, spiritually speaking, and helped the poor have food, clothing, and other needs met. He worshipped regularly, prayed deeply and wore a common brown robe in contrast to the finely tailored clothes he had worn before.

He became so devout, loving, and good-hearted that other men began to join him in his ministry. Their Christian work was so important that the pope allowed them to become an order of monks known as the Franciscans. After the pope's blessing was given to them, the order began to spread across the world and is still an effective order to this day. This fascinating story is in the August issue of **Stewardship**. The lesson we learn from Francis is that the stewardship of one's talents, time, and resources of whatever sort are greatly important in living the Christian life. To be a Christian is not only to believe in Christ, but to serve him by serving others in his name.

**Prayer:** O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, not so much to be understood as to understand, not so much to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, it is in dying, that we awake to eternal life. **Amen**