

Stewardship of Time

Saint Patrick Catholic Church | Tacoma, Washington

Terese Schomogyi's Witness Talk Text | February 21 – 22, 2016

Hi. My name is Terese Schomogyi. We've all heard of the three T's in which we can give of ourselves: time, talent and treasure. These areas are a special focus of ours during Lent, when we're called to reflect on our lives and faith journeys. Today I'm going to be talking a little bit about time and how to use it in three ways: to serve others, to deepen my faith, and to grow closer to God.

Service is a really important part of both my life and my faith. I find that I feel most connected with God when I'm giving of myself and my time to others who may need it more than I do. In the past, I've volunteered with Operation Keep Em Warm and Fed, St. Leo's Food Connection, and Nativity House. Some of you may recognize me as a Lector here. I love reading Scripture, and I feel very close to God when I'm immersed in sharing his word with others. Here's a little service story: 2 years ago, I signed my family up to serve breakfast at the Rescue Mission on Christmas morning. At first, none of them were very happy to wake up at 5 in the morning on a holiday, but once we were there we were immediately swept up in the kindness we were sharing. Even my little brother, who grumbled about having to wait to open his presents, had fun handing out candy and smiling at the guests. The rest of that Christmas, I felt so grateful and connected to my family and to Christ, and I was glad we'd spent our time helping others. It was a really rewarding experience and one of my favorite memories of service.

I also place an emphasis on using my time to deepen my personal faith. Service definitely is one way I do this, but there are others too. Each morning, an app on my phone sends me a Bible verse of the day, and I make sure to take a few moments to reflect on it before school. I try to attend daily Mass once a week in addition to Mass on the weekend, and I've been on multiple retreats that have helped me grow in my faith

and deepen my relationship with Christ. I keep a gratitude journal and write down things and experiences I'm thankful for, no matter how big or small. Doing this keeps me grounded and helps me see the ways God is working in my life, which in turn strengthens my faith in him.

It's not always easy for me to make time for God, and with all our busy lives I'm sure it's not easy for you either. But I encourage everyone to give it a try this Lent. Take another look at the Stewardship of Time cards that were passed out on Ash Wednesday and see if there are any ideas you like, and make an effort to incorporate these times with God into the next 40 days. Dedicate 5 or 10 minutes each morning for quiet reflection on Scripture. Join St. Pat's students for Mass on Thursday mornings. Sign up to volunteer once a month in a classroom, hospital or soup kitchen. Take a weekend or even just a day for a reflective retreat.

Spending time with God doesn't necessarily mean working *only* on deepening our *personal* relationships with him. We are social beings who need to live in community in order to really live life to the full. So, remembering that Christ is in all people, we can also use our time to work to deepen our relationships with *others*. Designate a night to turn off your phone and spend time with family, take the time to listen to a friend without interruption, or make an effort to have family dinners every Sunday. In doing so, we'll not only start to *see* Christ in others, but we'll *become* Christ for others, and this is an invaluable use of our time to service God and bring him into our lives.

Whether you decide to focus on service, community or prayer and reflection, make an effort to incorporate time with God into these next 40 days. I think we'll all find that the few minutes or hours we spend with God will become times of peace and comfort, and something we'll continue even after Lent has come and gone. Thank you.

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