Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." (1 Peter 4:10)

As Catholic Christians, we know that God calls us each by name, young people, and adults alike. God has entrusted each of us with His unique gifts. We are called, as stewards, to live with a spirit of gratitude, to cultivate His gifts responsibly, and to share His gifts in service with generosity. It is in the sharing of our time, talent, and treasure that we become fully engaged Catholics building up our parishes, communities, and world.

Next weekend, as we observe Stewardship Sunday across the Diocese of Ogdensburg, I invite you to pray: "God, make me aware of the gifts you have shared with me. How do you want me to share these gifts to serve you and to strengthen my faith and the faith of others? God, how can I share my gifts of time, talent, and treasure to serve my parish and community?"

I encourage parishioners all across the diocese to speak with your pastor about the various ministries in your parish in which your gifts and talents can enrich the vibrancy and life of your parish. Please also take a moment to personally welcome others to share in your parish ministries. The longevity and vibrancy of our parishes is enriched by every member of the parish putting their gifts and talents to work and brings others and ourselves closer to God.

I am deeply grateful to the many women, men, and children who serve our parishes in a variety of ministries throughout the year. May God continue to bless the work of your hands and hearts. With the promise of prayers for you and your families, I am

Faithfully yours in Christ,

+ Terry R. LaValley

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg