



Thanksgiving Day

St. Mary Church

A Stewardship Community...Sharing Time, Talent and Treasure

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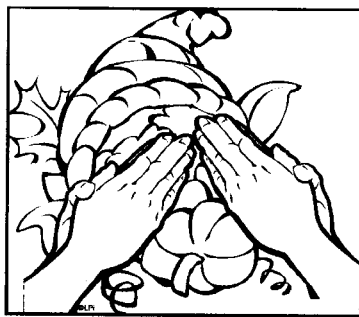
A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

for Thanksgiving

Gracious and loving God,
As the autumn season continues
its transformation;
and the days become shorter,
the earth cooler;
as we join family and friends
in joy and celebration
on Thanksgiving Day,
we pause to give You thanks
and praise
for the abundant blessings
You have bestowed upon us:
For life and health,
safety and comfort,
food and nourishment.
Through your Spirit, open
our hearts
so that we may be even
better stewards
of Your many blessings.
Show us how to be a blessing
for the poor, sick, lonely and
all who suffer.

And help us nurture the gift of faith,
revealed to us by your Son, Jesus
Christ,
our greatest gift,
who reigns with You and the Holy
Spirit, one God forever and ever.
Amen.

A THANKSGIVING REFLECTION



The month of November is a time when autumn colors can still be seen as leaves fall to the ground in much of the United States. It is a time that anticipates that unique American holiday, one that is celebrated in October by our Canadian sisters and brothers, Thanksgiving Day. It is a time when we celebrate our blessings in a land filled with promise and hope; and a time for Christian stewards to be reminded to give thanks to God, in the name of

our Lord, Jesus Christ, always and for everything (Eph 5:20).

God is indeed a gracious and generous God, and the peoples of Canada and United States have experienced this loving generosity in a most unique way. For its part, the United States has been called the great "melting pot" of races, creeds and ethnicities; allowing people the freedom to practice their religion, speak their minds, and pursue economic opportunities. And like the universal communion of our Catholic faith, this melting pot is a mosaic of many colors and cultures, blended in one beautiful expression of unity with diversity.

Look on the back of any United States coin and you see the Latin phrase *e pluribus unum*. This phrase is on the face of the Great Seal of the United States and it means "out of many, one." It expresses the same prophetic call to communion we find numerous times in the New Testament. And in part, because of this unity in diversity, even with its faults, America is still perceived around the world as a land of freedom for all and a beacon of hope in a world that is hungry for justice and peace.

Many marching bands will be playing the song "God bless America!" in Thanksgiving Day parades across the United States. Let us pray with a deep sense of gratitude that God continues to bless us abundantly and that we hear His urgent call to be even more fervent stewards of His blessings in North America and throughout the world.

