

Brandon Sanchez

Hello, my name is Brandon Sanchez, and I am currently a senior at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School. I would like to spread a message of how taking up God's work on this Earth has affected my life.

I have been part of this parish for the last 7 years, ever since my family and I moved to Kernersville from New York. My family, consisting of my sister, Ashley, my mother, and my grandmother, have always encouraged me to be the best possible version of myself in all facets of life. This was especially true when referring to the work which must be done to be a faithful steward. What exactly is stewardship? While many believe they have a strong grasp on the concept, it is possible that some may not; thus, I would like to give a quick explanation of the principle. Stewardship is defined by Merriam Webster as, "the conducting, supervising, or managing of something; or the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care." Within the Catholic Church, stewardship refers to the service done by a child of God in order to ensure that His work be completed.

I have grown up learning of the importance of stewardship, and have been encouraged to implement the mission since a very young age. That is, through my years of Catholic schooling starting in my pre-school years, I have learned what it means to be a good steward. However, I began to live the lifestyle as I grew older and moved into my teen years. I first began to volunteer at Vacation Bible School at age 14 as I approached my freshman year of high school. This soon led to other opportunities including Ushering, Eucharistic Ministry at both the parish and my high school, volunteering with Special Olympics, and assisting in the Faith Formation Program. Recently, however, I was approached by the Vice Principal of Bishop McGuinness, who is also the Youth Minister of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, and was asked to assist with their LifeTeen program. Cumulatively, each experience has reinforced my commitment to service to Christ as well as my peers. The service becomes so much more beneficial to me because of the joy I can see emanating from those with whom I work. Through this service, I learn about myself and my Savior, which is a truly amazing feeling.

I do not share these things to be boastful, rather to inspire you to take action and be the stewards of the Earth God is calling you to become. Within the next few months, I will be embarking upon the next chapter of my life in college, meaning that I will soon be moving to a parish community on campus where I will eventually attend college. There, I hope to continue to be involved in similar programs as I am currently involved in here in Kernersville.

As the liturgy is about to begin, I encourage each of you to prayerfully consider the call to stewardship in order to becoming more involved in Christ's work and living up to our fullest potential. Romans 6:17 states, "But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance." Through stewardship, and with God's grace and assistance, we are able to overcome the lure of sin.