



YOUTH STEWARDSHIP

CULTIVATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO

DR. ANN MITSAKOS BEZZERIDES

FRAMING CONTEXT

OFFICE OF VOCATION & MINISTRY



Ann M. Bezzerides
Director, OVM



Jenny Haddad Mosher
Director, Telos Project



Kyra Limberakis
Director, CrossRoad



Anna Furry
Program Manager, OVM



Anna Kallis
Director, Telos Gamma



Alex Demos
Asst. Dir., CrossRoad



EXPLORE YOUR FAITH LIKE NEVER BEFORE

[APPLY NOW](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)

telos PROJECT

HELLENIC COLLEGE HOLY CROSS

Engaging young adults

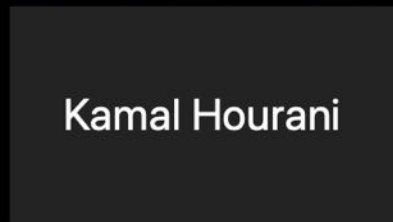
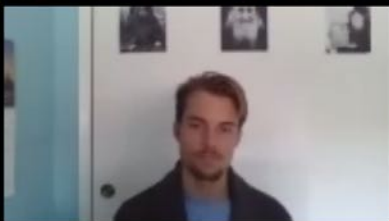
A five-year project exploring how Orthodox Christian young adults engage in the Church.

Participating parishes will take part in webinars

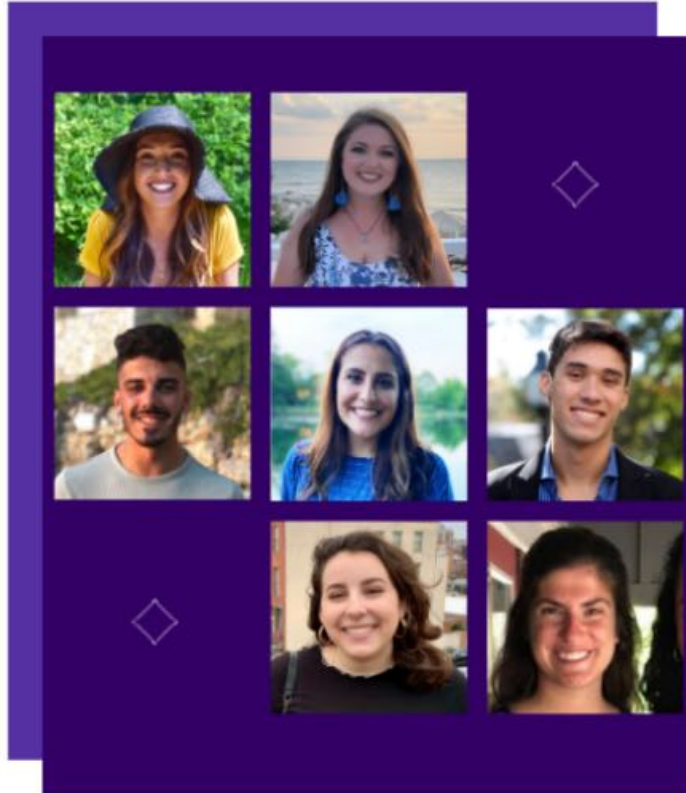
research

Learn





Youth and Young Adult Ministry Certificate 2020 Cohort



Pictured clockwise from top left:

- Katie Andrews (Pittsburgh, PA)
- Maria Chiarel (Lexington, SC)
- Spiro Costidis (Middleton, NJ)
- Angelique Myers (Solon, OH)
- Max Ramseyer (Costa Mesa, CA)
- Anna Reganis (Salt Lake City, UT)
- Demetra Zouzas (Fitchburg, MA)

Applications for next Cohort accepted through March 15th!

<https://enrollment.hchc.edu/certificate-in-youth-young-adult-ministry-and-leadership>

The background is a solid dark blue color. It features several faint, light blue circular patterns. These include concentric circles, some with dashed lines, and others with solid lines. Some of these circles have degree markings around their perimeters, ranging from 0 to 360 degrees. There are also curved arrows indicating a clockwise direction of rotation. The overall aesthetic is technical and geometric.

HOW SHOULD WE
SPEND OUR TIME
THIS EVENING?

GOAL 1

Increase our ability to talk to one another and to our young people about how we understand, live, and practice stewardship in our own lives.



WHY?

Your witness
around how
you each are
stewards could
change the



Metropolis of
San Francisco.

BACKGROUND

1. Role of a Teacher

“No books, however good, no programs, however well prepared, will replace the personal influence of the teacher. Whatever methods he uses, the teacher will leave his personal imprint on the contents he presents in class. An inspired and open-minded teacher will use the most old-fashioned and formal textbooks in a creative way. The most progressive manual will be taught mechanically by a legalistic and narrow-minded instructor.”

– Sophie Koulomzin, *Our Church and Our Children*, p. 117

THE FIVE – TO – ONE RATIO FLIP

“Those of us in ministry have gotten used to ratios. We know how many adults need to chaperone a field trip. We know how many young people we can invite to something before we start recruiting more cleared adults. As parents, we know what to ask when our children are invited to parties about the number of adults who might be present.

BACKGROUND

2. Role of Mentors

“Chap Clark, author of great books like *Sticky Faith* turned the ratios around when he first suggested that every child needs five adults investing in their lives. In a 2004 article in *Decision Magazine*, he wrote, “Here’s the bottom line: every kid needs five adult fans. Any young person who shows any interest in Christ needs a minimum of five people of various ages who will say, ‘I’m going to love that kid until they are fully walking as an adult member of this congregation.’”

Quote from Patrick Donovan <http://fiveminutesonmonday.com/five-to-one/>

Our youth need Christ and so our youth need... you.

Your witness
around how
you each are
stewards could
change the



Metropolis of
San Francisco.

GOAL 2

Spark your own creative thinking about what you might try in your parish, at whatever level you have responsibility.



BACKGROUND

1. We're in an era where we have to try new things in ministry
2. When change is hard, good solutions happen on the local level





SO AT THE END OF OUR TIME TOGETHER, THE HOPE IS THAT YOU HAVE...



A fresh way in which you articulate your own sense of stewardship, and the top 3 people or groups you are going to share it with



At least one concrete idea of something you could try in whatever context you are in – Sunday school, family life, parish council, etc.

STEWARDSHIP

“WHAT YOU DO WITH ALL THE GIFTS GOD GAVE YOU.”

– BILL MARIANES

REALITY FROM OUR EXPERIENCE WITH YOUTH

To understand life as stewardship, we have to believe God gave us gifts.

To understand stewardship, we have to understand....

vocation.

ORTHODOX VOCATION 101 STARTS WITH TWO BIG QUESTIONS

What is life about?



Who am I?







CHRIST AT WORK

Orthodox
Christian
Perspectives
on Vocation

VOCATION VOCATION VOCATION

- Not a specific career
- Whole way of being in the world
- *What* I am doing with my life is actually secondary to *who* I am
- But if vocation means “call” there has to be a caller

WHO IS CALLING US?





WHAT DOES HE CALL US *TO*?

Most simply, to sum up all the Law and the Prophets, and as Jesus Himself explains in the Gospels, He calls us to “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” (Matthew 22:37-40)

Our **vocation** is our unique and ongoing response to Christ's call to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength, and the neighbor as ourself.



THAT'S JUST THE BEGINNING OF THE STORY

- Christ calls us to this, but what does this really mean? How do we love God? How do we love our neighbor? For that matter, who is this God, really? And who is my neighbor?
- These are great theological questions. Seeking answers to them helps answer our first question, *What is life about?* Add to these the question, *Who am I?* and we have a trilogy of great questions to spark a theological exploration of vocation.



WHO AM I?
WHO IS CHRIST?
WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?





1ST REFLECTION

What is a Gospel reading that has most recently spoken to you personally?

How has it spoken to you?

What does it mean for the way you live your life?



- Check your understanding with others – with a spouse, with your priest or another wise elder.
- Live this reality: Christ is calling you in a real in ongoing way in 2021.

STEWARDSHIP

WHAT YOU DO WITH ALL THE GIFTS GOD GAVE YOU

=

ROOTED IN GRATITUDE FOR HIS CALLING
HIS OFFER OF ABUNDANT LIFE, EVERLASTING WATER
CHRIST AS OFFERER AND OFFERED
FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD



STEWARDSHIP

AN OUTPOURING OF GRATITUDE

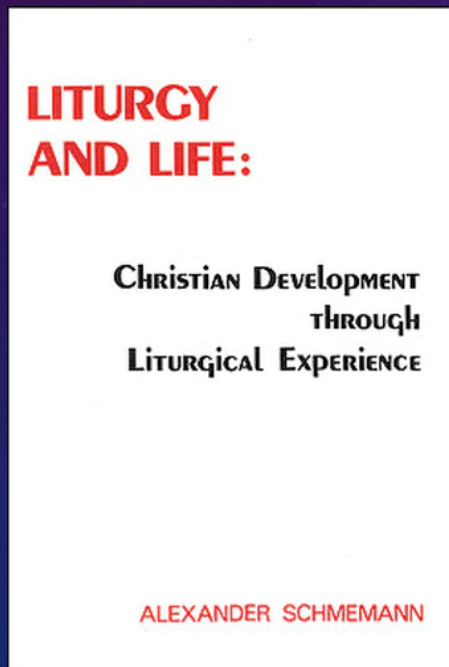


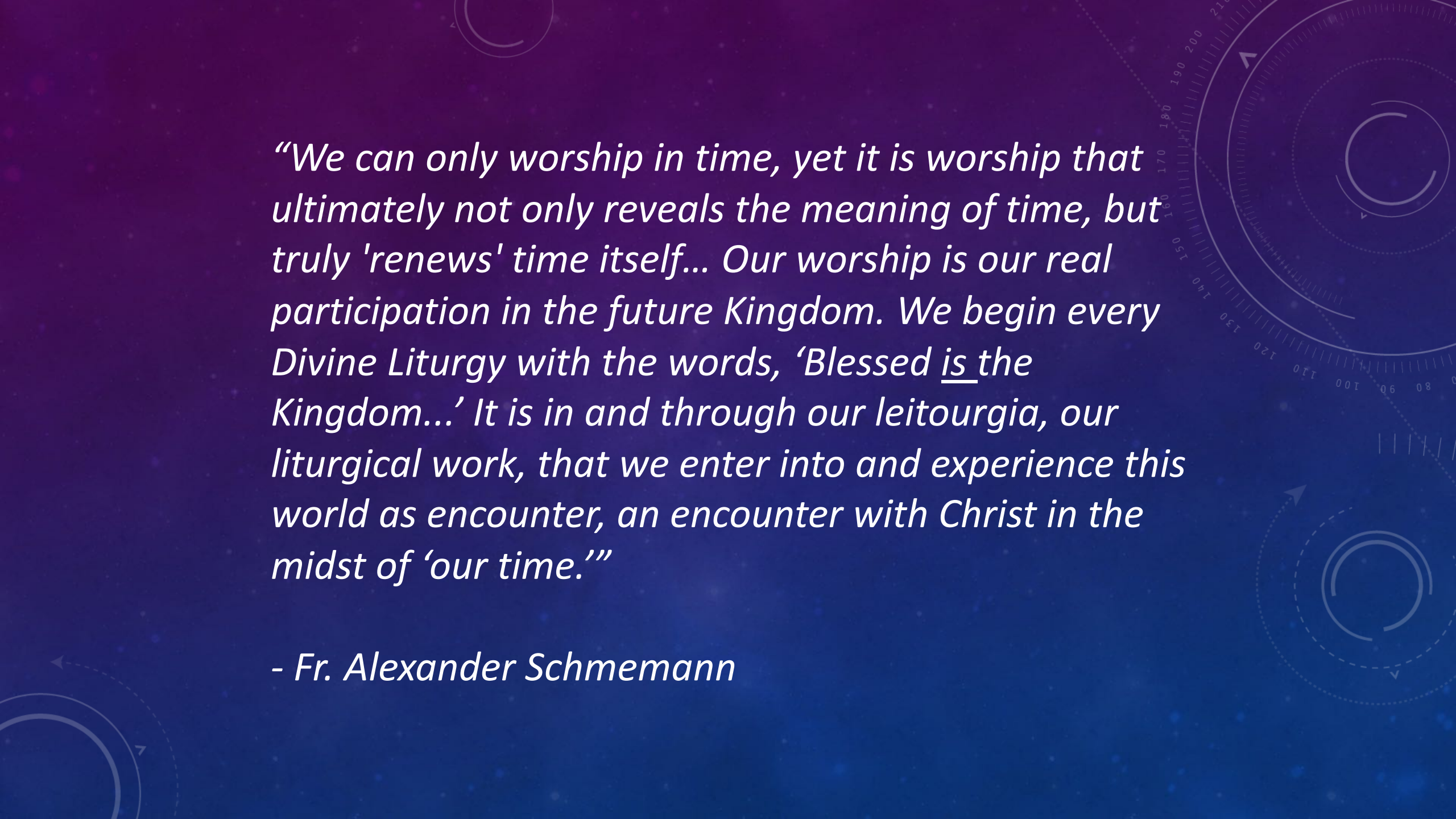
TIME + TALENT + TREASURE

A) TIME = SANCTIFICATION OF TIME

Fr. Alexander Schmemmann

Weekly schedule





“We can only worship in time, yet it is worship that ultimately not only reveals the meaning of time, but truly 'renews' time itself... Our worship is our real participation in the future Kingdom. We begin every Divine Liturgy with the words, ‘Blessed is the Kingdom...’ It is in and through our leitourgia, our liturgical work, that we enter into and experience this world as encounter, an encounter with Christ in the midst of ‘our time.’”

- Fr. Alexander Schmemmann

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a pen, writing in a lined notebook. The notebook is open, and the writing is in cursive. The background is a dark, textured surface.

2ND REFLECTION

What is one way you sanctify your time that connects you to Christ and gives you joy and a sense of purpose and rootedness?

What is one way in which you could more deliberately sanctify your time?

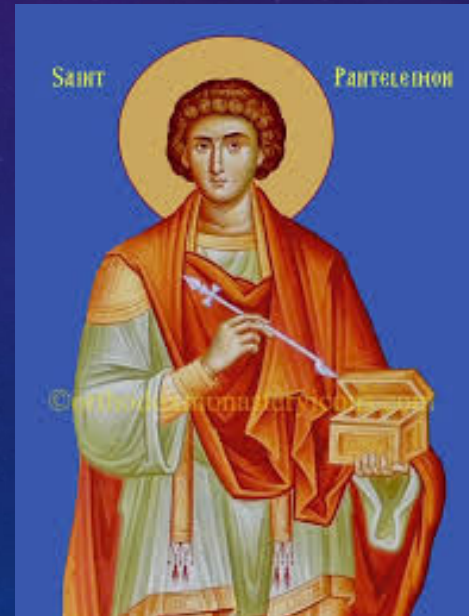


B) TALENT

You can love God with your mind



Sanctification of professions



FROM
ORTHODOX
FAITH AND LIFE
IN CHRIST

ST. JUSTIN
POPOVICH

IN THE LIVES
OF THE SAINTS

There are many marvelous examples of
how a youth becomes a holy youth...
how parents become holy parents,
how a son becomes a holy son,
how a daughter becomes a holy daughter,
how a family becomes a holy family,
how a community becomes a holy community,
how a priest becomes a holy priest,
how a bishop becomes a holy bishop...
how a worker becomes a holy worker,
how a judge becomes a holy judge,
how a teacher becomes a holy teacher,
how an instructor becomes a holy instructor,
how a soldier becomes a holy soldier,
how an officer becomes a holy officer,
how a ruler becomes a holy ruler,
how a scribe becomes a holy scribe,
how a merchant becomes a holy merchant,

*If you would like a
copy of this quote
card, email me at
[abezzerides@hchc.
edu](mailto:abezzerides@hchc.edu) and we will
send along!*

TELOS PROJECT – YOUNG ADULT TALENT AT WORK

St Barbara, Orange CT



St George, Chicago IL





THE KEY HERE IS THAT YOUNG ADULTS ARE
NOT VOLUNTOLD TO DO THINGS THAT THE
PARISH NEEDS DONE.

RATHER, THEY ARE INVITED – IN THE WAY THEY
ARE INVITED TO SEE THEIR FAITH APPLY TO
THEIR WORK – TO FIND WAYS IN WHICH THEIR
WORK SKILLS CAN BENEFIT THE PARISH.

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a silver pen, writing in a lined notebook. The notebook is open, and the writing is in cursive. The background is blurred, showing a wooden surface.

3RD REFLECTION

How do you love God and your neighbor through your work or in your community?

Are there connections that you can articulate?



C) TREASURE

- CrossRoad is funded 100% on the generosity of donations from people who love the program
- 40% of our donors are our alumni, ages 18-33
- 19 year olds are giving as much as \$15/month; 32 year olds as much as \$250/month
- 32 year old gave a \$5,000 gift at Christmas
- BUT THEY ARE NOT JUST GIVING TO CROSSROAD
 - Priests have told me they are surprisingly generous contributors to their parishes
 - And they're not just fundraising for CR – they are raising funds for all sorts of ministries in the Church
- It is humbling and we know it's not just us – it's great parishes, clergy, and families who are raising these kids and we get to be a part of the amazing journey

1. Connect gratitude and generosity
2. Invitation to give is done by an older peer
3. Share vision, real costs, & right-sized goals



A close-up photograph of a hand holding a silver pen, writing in a lined notebook. The notebook is open, and the writing is in cursive. The background is a dark, textured surface.

4TH REFLECTION

You are all here because you love the topic of stewardship.

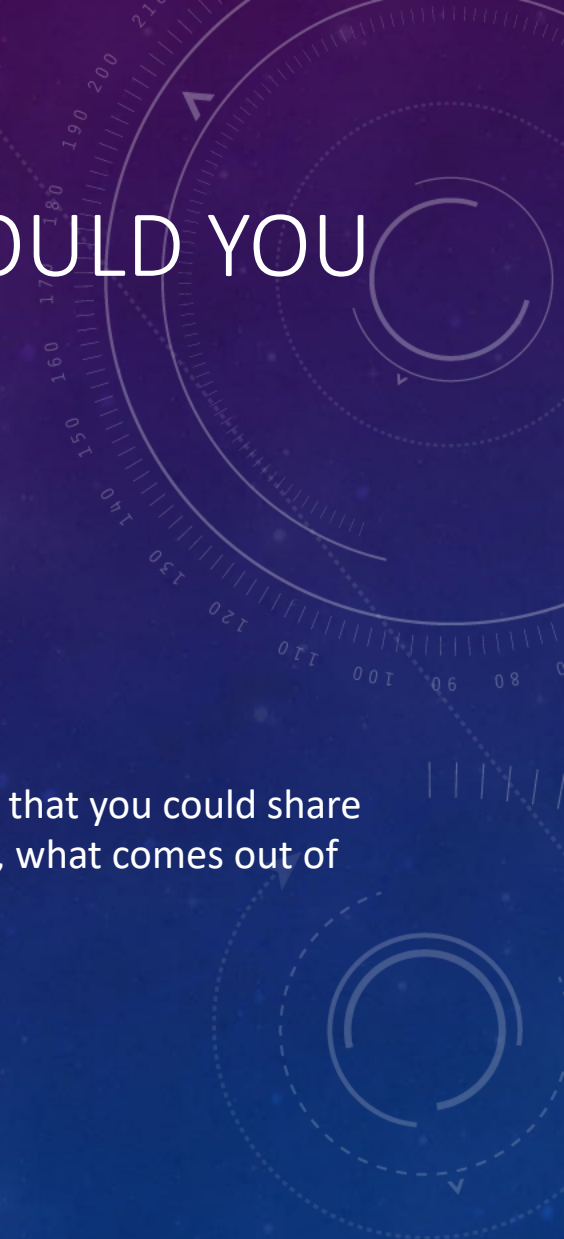
Take a moment and renew your own vision for why you personally give: why does it mean so much to you to give of your treasure to the Church?





WITH WHOM COULD YOU SHARE THIS?

Now think of three people or groups that you could share any of the content of your reflection, what comes out of your heart personally on this topic?





FINAL REFLECTION

Now take a moment – is there an idea that has been sparked tonight for you, so far, of something you would like to try in your parish?




CLOSING ENCOURAGEMENT

The Long Game



Phronema for the Journey

1. Be willing to try new things
2. Get feedback along the way; be open to things not working well and having to try something else
3. Find joy in learning, not perfection



Your witness
around how
you each are
stewards could
change the

Metropolis of
San Francisco.