



## **Growth in Our Faith and on Our Spiritual Journey**

Take a look at our mission statement. The Church partners with God in order to move us through the stages of spiritual growth which include **Connecting, Growing, and Serving.**

We all begin as God's children, lovers of God, but essentially observers and we need the right environment to grow spiritually. We first connect with God during Sunday Mass and our love for Him grows.

As our love grows and we become engaged by adding such things as prayer, sacraments, community, and other nutrients to our environment, we become God's fields where we begin to blossom, preparing to bear fruit.

From God's fields we become God's homes where His Spirit takes up residence in us, continuing to work on us, and through us, to serve one another and to be disciples of Christ, bearing fruit throughout the world.

In a nutshell, our spiritual journey takes us from being observers to being contributors.

**Contributor = Server = Steward**

**Stewardship is returning to God in gratitude the "first fruits"** of what we have received, not the portion of gifts that is left over. Putting God first in our lives by practicing stewardship deepens our faith and moves us along on our spiritual journey.

We are called to be stewards of all God's gifts of our time, our talents, and our financial resources. We are expected to use these gifts in service to God and one another.

## **Where Am I Spiritually?**

- Am I at the very beginning?
- Have I just met God?
- Am I at a point where I am actively feeding and growing my spirit?
- Do I recognize that who I am and all I have are gifts from God?
- Am I thankful?
- Am I looking at all that I am and all that I can share to discern how God is asking me to serve out my baptismal call?
- Am I preparing to serve?
- Am I using my time, talents, and treasures to serve God and my community?
- Am I feeding my spirit regularly so I can continue to contribute to God's kingdom on earth?