

# Impact

Bring faith to life. Find life in faith.

## Impact this month:

### STOP

Take a few moments each day to pause and talk with God about your life.

### LOOK

Look around yourself. Are you attentive to the people in your life? To those who are in need? Do you need to change some aspect of your life in order to more fully focus on the things that are important?

### LISTEN

Listen to God's voice through the readings at Mass and in daily prayer; listen to the people you love; listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit within you. How may God be calling you to gain perspective in life by growing in humble faith?



## See clearly

Life gets out of control at times. Faith brings focus and perspective.

Anyone who uses glasses or contact lenses to correct vision knows what a difference it makes when things are in focus. Do you sometimes wish there was a corrective lens for life? At times, overcommitment creates a blur of activity; a personal or family crisis makes it difficult to focus on the tasks at hand; the constant desire for or acquisition of things distracts us from what is really important.

If we listen carefully to the readings at Mass this month, we will begin to gain insight into the path for bringing focus to our life: **humble faith**. Such faith recognizes that through it all, God is with us. Secure in God's love, we respond by growing in faith, and embrace our call to be with and for others. **This brings needed perspective to everything.**

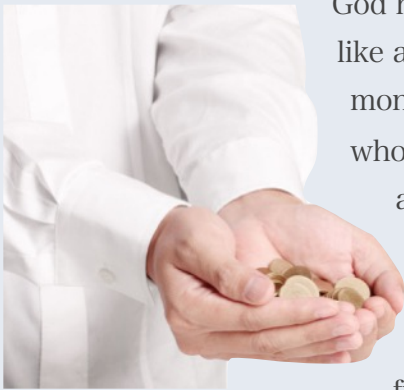
**In humble faith, our lives come into sharp focus:** the blur of activity recedes as we **see** what is most important; we know that Jesus walks with us, and **find** peace and consolation through every trial; we learn to separate wants from needs, and **focus** instead on what is important — faith, family, friends, and those who need to know God's love and mercy through us. Through the lens of humble faith, we see clearly.



## Sharing treasure as a sign of faith

Is sharing your “treasure,” your money, the most challenging aspect of living faith and growing as a steward for you? You are not alone!

Many people find this to be so. We earn money through work, so many will say, “I earned this money, therefore it is mine.” Yet, we must remember that we work by using the life, talents, skills and time that



God has given us. Therefore, like all aspects of our lives, our money is a gift. Ask anyone who has been unemployed for a while, and they are sure to acknowledge the blessing of a job. When we look at our money

from this perspective, it is a means to an end, not the end itself. Money is the means to purchasing food, clothing and shelter. When

we live with the perspective that money is the means, and not the end, we gain perspective on the gift of our financial resources. In gratitude and humble faith, we may accept the challenge to respond generously to the needs of others, as a way of thanking God for the ways in which we are rich, and richly blessed! \*

### Stewardship is about more than money.

“Who is a Christian steward? One who receives God’s gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with all, and returns them with increase to the Lord.” (SDR, p. 48)

\*This article was previously published by Our Sunday Visitor, and is used here with permission.

## What does it mean to have faith?

Do you ever think about what it means to have faith? Faith is a gift, the grace of God who has created us with an inborn hunger to know him. When we respond to this grace, we come to believe in God and place our trust in him. Faith is not something we possess, nor

is it to be taken for granted. In the letter to the Hebrews, we hear, “Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and the evidence of things not seen.” Through the help of the Holy Spirit, we open our minds to the truth of God’s infinite love for each of us. Through

the gift of faith, our hearts respond by embracing this love as the center of our lives. In our contemporary culture, many people see faith as a denial of reason. Yet, faith and reason stand together, as

it is God who created everything that exists, God who is revealed through scientific exploration, and in the beauty of the world around us, and is present the mystery of Christ’s love, poured out in sacramental signs.

