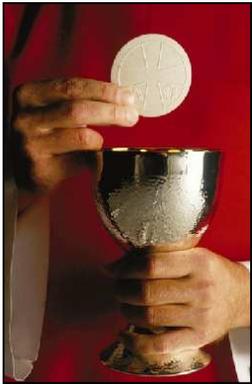

Union in Eucharist

Our lives as Christians should be permeated with thanksgiving to God for the many gifts God has entrusted to us. Our supreme ex-



pression of thankfulness is found in the celebration of the Eucharist. In the Eucharist we reaffirm our participation in the New Covenant, we offer our

thanks to God, and we strengthen the bonds of commitment to each other. Together with the self-offering of Jesus, we bring to the Eucharist our lives, and our resources. We are but stewards of God's gifts.



Personal Reflection

- How much TIME do I give appreciating God's gifts to me?
- Does my use of God's gifts show gratitude?
- At Eucharist am I aware of renewing my covenant with God and of offering my stewardship of God's gifts?

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"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied graces" (1 Peter 4:10).

In Covenant With God



and All People

A Thankful Heart

When we mature as Christians and develop into genuine disciples by following Jesus, our lives are marked by a spirit of thankfulness. We rejoice daily in the gift of life. People and things around



us take on new dimensions. We begin to see everything as gifts from God. We reverence persons and things and try to relate to them as Jesus did in doing His Father's will. We collaborate with God in carrying out the divine plan "to bring all things in the heavens and on earth into one under Christ's headship." (Eph. 1:10)

Unity of Gifts

Together with Jesus' self-offering to His Father, we join our-

selves and all the good gifts of God which we cherish and cultivate as stewards. We gratefully use and share the many gifts we have been given by God and, with thankful hearts, we are drawn closer to Him and to one another. In this sense, our Christian stewardship is Eucharistic.

Need for Conversion

The misuse of God's gifts in today's society has greatly affected and, in many cases, has ruptured humankind's relationship with God. There exists a growing lack respect for life; selfishness has led to alienation and conflict, and greed has caused a disproportionate ownership and use of resources among the peoples of the world. We have become blind to God's mandate to respect life, to cultivate the gifts of the universe, and to lovingly care for each other. Plainly, there is need for reconciliation with God and with one another.

Mutual Covenant

Throughout Scripture we see God's effort to make and remake a covenant with the people. God was constantly leading the people in order to reveal and carry out the loving plan of creation.

Reflecting on the Scriptures we become aware of the totality of the divine commitment. We also become aware of God's expectations of a comparable response from humankind.

For Christians there can be no partial covenant with God. Our baptismal call to discipleship, Christian stewardship of all gifts according to God's will is a total way of life. It is bringing all we are and have into proper relationship with God and with each other. As we grow in covenant relationship and knowledge of God's heart, our own hearts become ever more open to the cries of our brothers and sisters in need. We become evermore aware that our relationship with God can be no greater than our relationship with those around us.
