



# Benedictine Bits

## Stewardship



Stewardship is defined by Merriam-Webster as “the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care.” Chapter 31 of the *Rule of Benedict* states that we are to “regard all utensils as if they were the sacred vessels of the altar.” Thus, we are to care for everyday objects like tools, dishes, and books as though they are as precious as the chalice and paten used for Eucharist.

Although stewardship is often associated with reverence of environmental resources, we can also apply Benedict’s message to people. Stewardship then encompasses how we treat people, recognizing them as gifts from Christ that deserve our care. How different would the world be if we treated everyone, including our own selves, as “vessels of the altar”? Benedict often reminds us in the *Rule* to take special care of the sick, the young, the aged, and the poor. This is the core of Benedictine stewardship, to care lovingly for others and the world around us. Through a Benedictine lens, stewardship focuses on mutual care and responsible use of resources, time, and talent. These gifts we have been given are all significant to the community and are to be treasured.