Hello, my name is Erica Zentner. I am a senior at Clarkston High School and have been a member of St. Daniel's parish since my baptism nearly 18 years ago. I am the oldest of three children with a sister in ninth grade and a brother in second. My parents, Ed and Lynette Zentner, have attended this parish for about 20 years.

It is over my years at St. Daniel's that I have grown to realize the huge importance of Stewardship both to myself and my personal journey of faith but even more, I have come to recognize that Stewardship is what brings our parish community together as one. When we are becoming stewards we are making a conscious decision to give back to God. Whether we are giving our time through volunteering or prayer, our talent through specific activities or our treasure through monetary support to our parish, we are coming together to say thank you to God. We are showing our gratitude for the immense gifts he has given to us. Just as we say thank you when we are given a gift, we say thank you to God's gifts to us through our Stewardship.

Being a steward of Christ is something anyone can do and at any age. Through the conformation program youth are encouraged to volunteer and take part in service activities. It is through those activities you can truly grow closer to God and your faith. Personally, I have found multiple positions of Stewardship which I can come to enjoy and appreciate. After being urged to attend High School youth group my sophomore year I was able to join many of the youth driven service activities such as the 24 hour fast. My junior year I was nominated to serve on our Youth Council and sit as the youth representative on Pastoral Council. I have enjoyed using these opportunities to not only become further involved in the parish community but also to urge others to become Stewards of Christ. As a youth group we have given our treasure and together sent down

shoe boxes to teenagers in need down in Appalachia. I have been able to use my artistic talent to donate items to the Horn of Plenty auction as well as decorate the youth bulletin boards. However, one of my favorite acts of Stewardship was this past summer when I joined the youth for the yearly mission trip which was located in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. I gave a week of my summer to serve people in need, but the growth in my faith and the enjoyment of having youth from across the country come together to be Stewards of Christ was well worth that week of summer vacation, and I am looking forward to our mission trip to Milwaukee, Wisconsin this summer.

You don’t need to go away for a week to practice Stewardship. There are opportunities around us everyday. I encourage you to take the time to find those opportunities for Stewardship and those opportunities to grow in faith. Say a prayer, try a few different service opportunities. Find the area of Stewardship you feel God is calling you toward. I have a teacher who tells us, “You get out of it, what you put into it.” Our relationship with God is no different. When we give our time, talent and treasure we are telling God we wish to be close to him and we appreciate what he has done for us. God wants to have a personal relationship with us and I have found my Stewardship has helped me to find that more intimate relationship with Christ.

You are never too young, nor too old to serve the lord and I urge you all to find your area of stewardship. "This is Stewardship Commitment Weekend. Please get involved in our parish by completing the Time and Talent Opportunities Form. Even if you already volunteer for a ministry or service, please fill out the form since this is an annual commitment. Also, please pray about your fair share offertory gift as you complete the annual Treasure Renewal Form. Adults, we commit to a home mortgage

and car payments, and youth we commit to various sports and activities; why not commit to how much we give back to God?"