Recruiting & Forming
Your Parish Stewardship Committee

Beliefs...

• **Personal**: Living out stewardship in my own life

• **Our Diocese**: Individual’s need to give out of *thanks* rather than the Church’s need to *receive*—it IS a way of life for us...

Focus of Stewardship

• Based on individual’s need to give out of *gratitude*—*spiritual way of life*—conversion process.

• Stewardship is intentional, planned, and proportionate giving.
Focus of Stewardship

- Based on fact that each person has been given unique gifts and talents from God. Part of our calling is to discern, develop, and use those gifts.
- Stewardship is part of our own religious education.

Focus of Stewardship

- Giving of the first fruits of our time, talent, and treasure.
- Time involves first our time spent with God in prayer and sacraments, then time spent in service to others.

Focus of Stewardship

- Should embrace all aspects of our life: family, church and community.
- Stewardship is about putting God FIRST in our lives. Our calendars and checkbooks tell our story.
Focus of Stewardship

- Stewardship involves TRUST in God’s will.
- Stewardship is PROACTIVE.
- Stewardship brings a sense of personal joy and fulfillment to life.

We’ve looked at...

- The FOCUS of Stewardship
- The question remains:

  How can we establish a parish environment that will encourage people to live stewardship as a way of life?

Forming a Stewardship Committee...

- Under parish council
- Responsible for stewardship awareness and annual stewardship efforts
- NOT under the auspices of Finance Council
- Five or more members
Committee Member Profile ...

- Spiritually motivated
- Exemplify and live out stewardship
- Envision and define where stewardship can take the parish
- Possess qualities to ensure success - accountable, optimistic, persistent, creative, willing to share their faith

Stewardship Committee’s Roles and Responsibilities

- Annual Efforts - Homilies, Commitment Sundays, Commitment Cards, Ministry Fairs, Mailings, Awareness Activities (handout)
- Lay Witness (handout)
- Time and Talent List/Catalogue
- MAKE THE CONTACT - most challenging and most important

Roles and Responsibilities...

- Evaluate efforts annually
- Use the weekly parish bulletin
- Purchase 3-4 brochures annually to rotate out
- Parish newsletter - great communication tool
- Homilies
- Prayers of the Faithful
- Welcoming/Hospitality Program (handout)
Roles and Responsibilities...

- Commissioning Sunday *(handout)*
- Show appreciation
- Children Religious Education Programs and separate children’s component to the entire parish effort *(handout)*
- Gift discernment opportunities

Roles and Responsibilities...

- Continuing Education to include:
  - **FIVE M’S to building and utilizing a network of resources**

Roles and Responsibilities...

- **FIVE M’S to building a network of resources:**
  1) Materials
  2) Meetings
  3) Mixing
  4) Models
  5) eMails
1) Materials and Resources
- Children’s Stewardship Manual (ICSC)
- Keeping Stewardship Alive – Proven Stewardship Ideas (ICSC)
- Best Practices in Parish Stewardship (by ICSC and Chuck Zehr)
- DVD’s, CD’s, Cassettes and Videos (ICSC)

Websites:
- seattlearchdiocese.org
- archstl.org
- charlottediode.org
- blessedtrinity.org
- stlukescatholic.com

2) Meetings
- ICSC Annual Conference and Institutes
- Diocesan Stewardship Days
- Regional Stewardship Meetings
- Conference Call Meetings
- Other Stewardship Seminars/Conferences
FIVE M’S

3) Mixing
- Individual phone calls
- Individual meetings
- Individual email

FIVE M’S

4) Models
- Archbishop Murphy Award Winners
- St. Francis of Assisi, Wichita, KS
- St. Joseph, Downingtown, PA
- St. Charles Borromeo, Youngstown, OH
- St. Matthew, Somerset, NJ
- St. Anne, Columbus, GA
- St. Luke the Evangelist Houston, TX
- St. Michael, Olympia, WA
- Blessed Trinity, Ocala, FL
- St. Thomas More, Centennial, CO
- Immaculate Heart of Mary, Cincinnati, OH
- St. Pius the Tenth, Greensboro, NC
- Queen of Peace, Gainesville, FL
- La Purisima, Orange, CA
- St. Francis of Assisi, Raleigh, NC
- St. Paul, Valparaiso, IN
- St. Mary Magdalen, Altamonte Springs, FL

Select Diocesan Models (Top 10 in each diocese)

FIVE M’S

5) eMail
- Group email exchange - diocesan, regional or national.
Roles and Responsibilities...

• Develop an Annual Plan *(handout)*
• Expand your focus beyond your parish and even your diocese...

No more business as usual...

• You’ve heard too much
• Plan some initial steps today
• Establish a parish environment that will foster personal conversion
• If your parish has already begun the journey...enhance it

Try it, you’ll like it...

• Your own personal lives can also change after today.
• Nourish and share your faith experience with others
Jesus said, “Come and See”

• Today you came and you saw
• Go now and make a difference in your parish by embracing stewardship as a way of life

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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