

Parish Stewardship Assessment Process

The following survey is a self-assessment tool to help parishes reflect upon and measure their progress against certain threshold criteria with regard to the practice and promotion of stewardship.

A true “stewardship parish” recognizes the living presence of Christ in its midst, and sets out to steward this gift of God to all of humanity. A stewardship parish receives and delights in this greatest of gifts, and then offers the abundance of life and love that flows from Him to the people of the parish.

Goal: Christ-centered Community

- Attendance at daily and Sunday liturgies has increased
- Parish has scheduled times for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- Increased recognition of stewardship as a way of life with Christ in the Church
- Spirituality has grown in the parish, including increased personal devotion and more frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance
- Parish strategic planning that is intentional about seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit and includes fostering stewardship as a way of life as a vital part of the parish plan
- Participation in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) has grown
- Other

Goal: Stewardship Outreach

How does the parish share stewardship resources of time, talent and treasure lovingly in justice with:

- Individuals in need?
- The local poor?
- The local community?
- The arch/diocesan community?
- The national community?
- The worldwide community?

How does the parish show that it is a good steward of:

- Creation?
- Vocation?
- The Church?
- Mission?

Goal: Spirituality/Worship

- Witness talks are given each year by parishioners who are stewards of Christ's life and love
- Homilies regularly include stewardship themes
- Financial gifts are brought forward during the offertory procession, showing the link between the sacrificial offering of the people and the Eucharist
- Parish encourages prayer focused on asking for the grace to live as good stewards (e.g. prayer cards, prayer at parish meetings, prayer at home, reciting a stewardship prayer together occasionally at Mass)
- Other

Goal: Education/Stewardship Catechesis

- Stewardship is an integral part of the school, religious education, and faith formation curriculum from preschool through young adult
- Adult formation shows that a steward's life is the Christian life lived to its fullness
- The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) teaches stewardship as a way of life with Christ in his Church
- Other

Goal: Welcoming/Hospitality

- Greeters are present at every Mass
- Fellowship provided regularly after Masses
- Registration for new parishioners is easy for them (e.g. welcome table, welcome information in pews)
- New parishioners are offered some kind of orientation and official welcome by stewards of the parish
- Visitor guide is available for all who celebrate with the parish
- Newcomer's packet is designed to welcome all new families who register
- Extra effort is given to offer genuine friendship to newcomers through the works of parish life
- Important days in people's lives are celebrated (e.g. parish recognizes wedding and baptismal anniversaries, etc.)
- Other

Goal: Stewardship of Treasure

- An annual commitment renewal takes place
- All parishioners (unless they've requested otherwise) are sent offertory envelopes on a regular basis
- Commitment reminder letters are sent
- Parish annual report includes every aspect of stewardship, including treasure
- Contributors are regularly thanked
- Parish gives at least 5% of ordinary income to charities (not counting special collections)
- Planned Giving is promoted regularly
- Appreciation for the fact that treasure offered *outside the parish* in the community-at-large is also good stewardship
- Other

Goal: Stewardship of Time and Talent

- An annual commitment renewal takes place
- An annual ministry fair is hosted
- The ministry guide is updated annually
- Volunteers are thanked, shown appreciation and recognized
- Appreciation for the fact that time and talent offered *outside the parish* in the community-at large is also good stewardship
- Other

Goal: Communications

- Bulletin insert on stewardship is distributed on a 'regular' basis
- Weekly bulletin includes a stewardship column or note
- Parish uses an annual Stewardship video
- Parish newsletter regularly contains information about stewardship as a way of life
- Website references stewardship information beyond the parish commitment materials for time, talent, and treasure
- Other

Goal: Forming Stewardship Leaders

- Parish Leadership (Stewardship Commission, Pastoral Council, Finance Council, etc) regularly studies the Pastoral Letter and educates itself about the basics of stewardship
- Stewardship commission meets regularly
- Parish mission statement indicates a mature understanding of stewardship as a way of life and includes the stewardship vision set out in the Bishops' pastoral letter

- Parish stewardship goals, objectives, and evaluation for the parish are prayerfully set by the stewardship commission in concert with the pastoral council and pastor
- Parish leaders regularly attend ICSC, Regional, and/or Diocesan Stewardship Conferences
- Other