

Implementing and/or Renewing Stewardship Efforts in Your Parishes

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Introducing Stewardship Formation in a Diocese

Theological basis of providing ideas to encourage parishioners to live a life of stewardship

“In pastoral care [of souls], sufficient use must be made not only of theological principals but also of the findings of the secular sciences so that the faithful may be brought to a more adequate and mature life of faith.” (Gaudium et Spes, no. 62)

Thus, it is important to use efforts such as the ones described in this presentation to bring people to a full understanding of faith and relationship with God and others.

Stewardship Formation in our Diocese

Communications – Past or Present

- Stewardship Awareness Sunday
- Diocesan Stewardship Newsletter/Bulletin
- Stewardship email distribution list
- Use of other social media
- Video production
- Website
- Emails to 750+ parish leaders. 33 emails sent since COVID with well over 100 ideas to keep parishioners engaged both spiritually and financially.

Stewardship Formation in our Diocese

Education

- Pastoral Council and leadership presentations
- Stewardship Committee presentations
- Networking (models and mentors)
- On-going parish consultation services
- Diocesan Stewardship Days
- Parish Ministry Leaders training/presentation
- Regional Meetings of parish stewardship committees/staff
- ICSC conference

Stewardship Formation in our Diocese

Education

- Stewardship Zoom Meetings in English and Spanish

Past Stewardship Zoom Session Topics

Stewardship Zoom **Session 1** - (English) [Stewardship Zoom Session 1 - YouTube](#)

1. First steps in starting a stewardship process (1 handout)
2. The creation and responsibilities of a stewardship committee (2 handouts)
3. Concrete ideas for hospitality and building community (1 handout)

Stewardship Zoom **Session 2** - (English) [Stewardship Zoom Session 2 - YouTube](#)

1. USCCB Pastoral Letter: Stewardship – A Disciples Response (1 handout)
2. Creating an annual parish stewardship plan (2 handouts)
3. Creating an annual report (1 handouts)

Stewardship Zoom **Session 3** - (English) [Stewardship Zoom Session 3 - YouTube](#)

1. Lay witness talk on stewardship – (1 handout)
2. Stewardship ministry booklet (4 handouts)
3. Engaging Questions about Stewardship (3 handouts)

Stewardship Formation in our Diocese

Education

- Stewardship Zoom Meetings in English and Spanish (cont.)

Stewardship Zoom **Session 4** - (English) [Stewardship Zoom Session 4 - YouTube](#)

1. Communications (1 handout)
2. Stewardship Effort for Children (1 handout)
3. Bulletin Announcements (1 handout)

Stewardship Zoom **Session 5** - (English) [Stewardship Zoom Session 5 - YouTube](#)

1. Role of the Pastor (1 handout)
2. Spiritual Gifts (2 handout)
3. Brochures (4 handout)

Stewardship Zoom **Session 6** - (English) No recording

1. Incorporating Stewardship into Sunday Homilies (1 handout)
2. Appreciation for Parish Volunteers (1 handout)
3. Stewardship Beyond the Parish (1 handout)

Stewardship Formation in our Diocese

Education

- Stewardship Zoom Meetings in English and Spanish (cont.)

Stewardship Zoom **Session 7** - (English) [Stewardship Zoom Session 7 - YouTube](#)

1. Why Stewardship Disciples Dozen (1 handout)
2. Best Practices from Murphy Award Winners (1 handout)
3. Volunteer Follow Ups (2 handouts)

Stewardship Zoom **Session 8** - (English) [Stewardship Zoom Session 8 - YouTube](#)

1. Stewardship as part of a parish pastoral plan (2 handouts)
2. Evaluating the stewardship effort on an annual basis (2 handouts)
3. Developing a welcoming program for new parishioners (1 handout)

Stewardship Zoom **Session 9** - (English) [Stewardship Zoom Session 9 - YouTube](#)

1. Toward a Theology of Stewardship (1 handout)
2. 6-week Small Group Study on Stewardship (1 handout)
3. Organizing a Ministry Fair (1 handout)

Stewardship Formation in our Diocese

Education

- Stewardship Zoom Meetings in English and Spanish (cont.)

Stewardship Zoom **Session 10** - (English) [Stewardship Zoom Session 10 - YouTube](#)

1. Stewardship Day April 12th in Concord NC (1 handout)
2. Stewardship of Assets – Planned Giving (1 handout)
3. Expand your focus beyond the parish with a tithing committee (1 handout)

Stewardship Zoom **Session 11** – (English)

1. Best Practices Research on Parish Stewardship (1 handout)
2. Parish Booklet Racks (3 handouts)
3. Parish/Stewardship Newsletters (6 handouts)

Stewardship Formation in our Diocese

Materials

- Brochures and other materials for parish efforts
- Diocesan Stewardship Manual
- Parish Stewardship Evaluation
- Logos, graphics, themes, etc.

Stewardship Formation in our Diocese

Organizational

- Diocesan Stewardship Committee
- Diocesan-wide parish stewardship survey
- Diocesan meetings of parish volunteer coordinators/
stewardship staff/stewardship committee members/parish
pastoral council members

Let's briefly look at the FOCUS of Stewardship

- Stewardship is based on the individual's need to give out of ***gratitude*** rather than the Church's need to receive—it is a spiritual way of life...a conversion process that changes lives.
- Stewardship is Intentional, Planned and Proportionate giving.
- Stewardship is based on the fact that each of us has been given unique gifts and talents from God. It is part of our calling to discern, develop and use those gifts.
- Stewardship is part of our own Religious Education.
- Stewardship is giving of the *first fruits* of our time, talent and treasure.

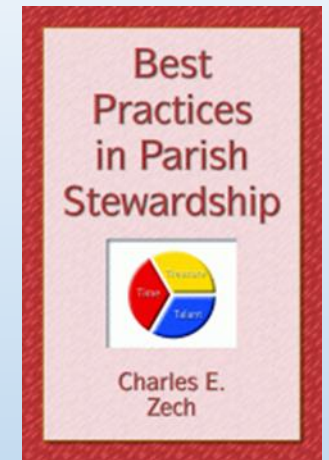
Let's briefly look at the FOCUS of Stewardship

- Stewardship of time involves first our time spent with God in prayer and sacrament, then the time spent in service to others.
- Stewardship should embrace all aspects of our life...Family, Church, Community.
- Stewardship is about putting God FIRST in our lives. Our calendars and checkbooks tell our story.
- Stewardship involves TRUST in God's will.
- Stewardship is PROACTIVE.
- Stewardship brings a sense of personal joy and fulfillment to life.

- The question remains: *How can we establish a parish environment that will encourage people to **live stewardship as a way of life**?*

Best Practices in Parish Stewardship

1. Be a welcoming parish
2. Appoint a stewardship council
3. Include stewardship as vital part of parish plan
4. Emphasize stewardship in all parish formation and education programs
5. Provide the opportunity for lay witness presentations
6. Encourage parishioners to make a pledge
7. Communicate with parishioners on stewardship
8. Remember, good stewardship starts in the parish house



Role of the Pastor

“A pastor’s prayerful meditations on Christian stewardship should precede the start of a parish stewardship program. Prayer becomes a potent and precious resource for the process because the primary objective in stewardship education is always a renewal of commitment to Christian discipleship.”

“To be successful, the pastor must make a complete, constant, personal and official commitment to stewardship as a constitutive element of Christian discipleship.”

Stewardship and Development in Catholic Dioceses and Parishes: A Resource Manual

Forming a Stewardship Committee (Zech #2)

- Under parish pastoral council
- Responsible for stewardship awareness and annual stewardship efforts
- NOT under the auspices of parish finance council
- Number of members varies due to size of parish



Committee Member Profile

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

Responsibilities of a Stewardship Committee

*bolded are the 20+ steps to carry out stewardship in a parish

- **Develop an Annual Plan (Zech #3)**
- **Prepare a time and talent listing or catalog of parish activities (keep it current)**
- **Provide opportunities for gifts discernment**
 - Living Your Strengths Workshops (Gallup) catholicstrengthsinstitute.org
 - Called and Gifted Workshops (Catherine of Sienna Institute)

Responsibilities of a Stewardship Committee

- **Carry out the stewardship effort of time, talent and treasure on an annual basis**
 - Timing/Planning
 - **Lay Witness Testimonies/Weekend** (Zech #5)
 - Letters/Brochures/Commitment Cards/Giving Guides (*Zech #6*)
 - Homilies
 - Ministry Fairs
 - In-pew Ask
 - **Follow-up** (make sure people are contacted)
 - **Commissioning Sunday**

Responsibilities of a Stewardship Committee

- **Develop a hospitality or welcoming program** (Zech #1)
- Ensure hospitality/community building activities occur on a regular basis throughout the year

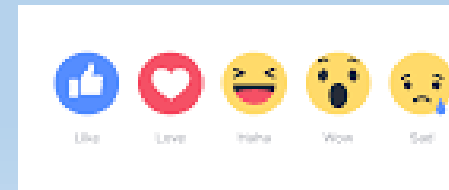
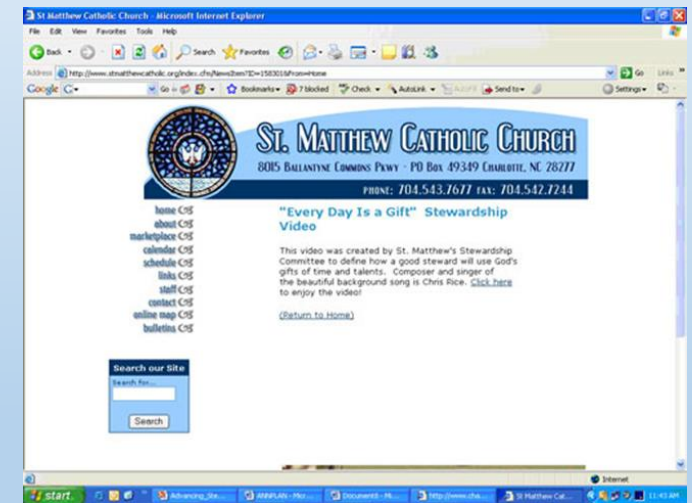


Responsibilities of a Stewardship Committee

- **Educate and evangelize (Zech #4)**
 - Parish leaders – annual training and greater focus on prayer
 - Stewardship in faith formation programs for children, teens and adults
 - RCIA
 - Parish Stewardship Mission
 - How to move to increasing level of commitment of time, talent and treasure (take a step)
 - **Children's stewardship component**
 - **In-service and continuing education to stewardship committee**

Responsibilities of a Stewardship Committee

- **Communicate throughout the year (Zech #7)**
 - Stewardship thoughts in parish bulletin, brochures, newsletters, homilies, prayers of the faithful
 - Accountability by sharing a state of the **parish annual report** that includes financials as well as faith and service activities (Zech #8)
 - To invite parishioners to continue participation and transformation (permeate the message throughout the year)
 - **Use website and other social media**



Responsibilities of a Stewardship Committee

- **Show appreciation to those involved with parish ministry** (including clergy)
 - Thank you calls
 - Thank you handwritten notes
 - Thank you letters
 - Thank you events
 - Thank you gifts
 - Thank you email (general)
 - Thank you email (personal)
 - Thank you bulletin announcement
 - Thank you robo call
 - Thank you visit
 - Thank you for estate gift
 - Lay leader thank you calls
 - Highlight volunteers in bulletin
- **Evaluate the annual plan each year**
- **Expand your focus beyond the parish**



Each of these 20+ areas of responsibility have detailed work to be done. Let me just share what 2 of these areas can look like.

Hospitality and Community Building Activities - Welcoming the New Parishioner

We provide 19 different ideas of things parishes have done to welcome new parishioners.

A few examples below:

- Trained greeters at Mass make a special effort to welcome all parishioners and newcomers.
- Pastor sends a welcome letter and/or makes a personal phone call.
- Make it a point to extend a personal invitation to parish activities for the first 6 months.

On-going Hospitality Activities

We provide 24 different ideas of things parishes have done to provide ongoing hospitality to parishioners.

A few examples below:

- Remember parishioner's special days (birthday, anniversary, awards, honors, etc.).
- Send a "Thank-You" to your spouse and family, who often take on additional responsibilities at home so you can share your time and talent with your parish.
- Phone calls by ministry leaders or staff to reach out to those who have not been to Mass recently.

On-going Community Building Activities

We provide 27 different ideas of things parishes have done to provide ongoing community building activities for parishioners.

A few examples below:

- Provide on-going community building activities such as parish picnics, pancake breakfasts, pot-luck dinners, holiday celebrations, parish festivals and Lenten soup suppers.
- Have receptions to celebrate special events such as First Communion, Confirmation, RCIA, etc.
- Build community through service events, such as meal packaging events, Habitat for Humanity home builds, neighborhood food pantry collections, various collections for special drives for the needy, etc.

Personal Hospitality

1. Recite the following prayer daily or regularly – “Lord take me today to someone or someones in need.”
2. Pay attention to others around you, as you don’t know what they are going through. Look out for a connection.
3. Be sure to say “hello” to those you encounter as you may be the only person who greets them that day.
4. Notice personal talents of those around you and encourage them to use those talents.

Personal Hospitality

5. Keep in touch with those who are hurting or in need. If we were ever given the opportunity to know what all the members of our parishes are going through, we would be overwhelmed with their challenges.
6. Pray for others.
7. Invite people to become engaged in the parish in some way.
8. Have hope-filled conversations.
9. Thank people.

Expand your focus beyond the parish

International Level – Uganda Mission work by Blessed Trinity Parish, Ocala, Florida

- It started in 2003 with a picture of a stick church in Sr. Juliet's hometown of Nalweyo, Uganda and a promise to build a much-needed bigger church.
- Sister Juliet works at Blessed Trinity parish ministering to the sick.



Since 2004 they have:

Purchased:

- 25+ Acres
- 30 Wells
- 25 Water Tanks
- Over 11,000 solar lamps
- Computers for the school labs

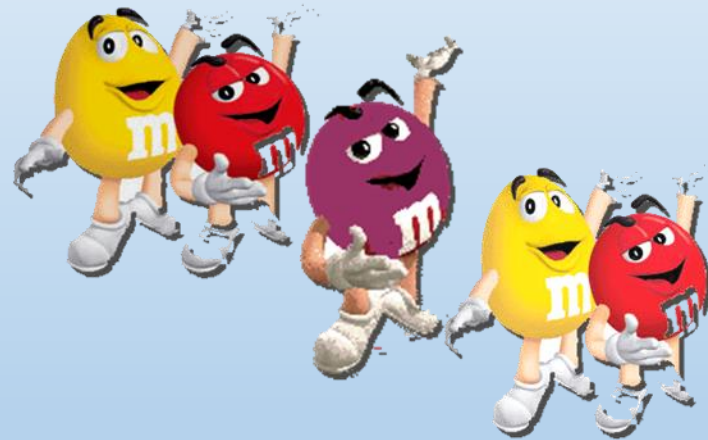
(If you can't go, pray, then give)

Built:

- 36 churches with a capacity ranging from 300-1000
- 1 convent
- Blessed Trinity grade school
- Trinity Catholic high school (Phase 1&2)
- St. Peter & Paul school
- 4+ sub parish schools
- A 21-bedroom staff house
- A 4-bedroom teacher house
- Priest's house
- 3 married teacher duplexes
- 4 dorms
- Kakinda Clinic

Five M's to Building a Network of Resources

- **M**aterials
- **M**eetings
- **M**ixing
- **M**odels
- **eM**ails



Five M's



1) Materials and Resources

- Stewardship: Disciples Respond A Practical Guide for Pastoral Leaders (International Catholic Stewardship Council – ICSC)
- Children's Stewardship Manual (ICSC)
- Keeping Stewardship Alive – Proven Stewardship Ideas (ICSC)
- Best Practices in Parish Stewardship (by ICSC and Chuck Zech)
- DVD's and CD's (ICSC)

Five M's



1) **Materials** and Resources (continued)

- Websites:

catholicstewardship.com

blessedtrinity.org

stlukescatholic.com

stmarymagdalen.org

seattlearchdiocese.org

archstl.org

catholicdioceseofwichita.org

Five M's

2) Meetings

- ICSC Annual Conference and Institutes
- Diocesan Stewardship Days
- Regional Stewardship Meetings
- Conference Call Meetings
- Stewardship Zoom Meetings in English and Spanish
- Other Stewardship Seminars/Conferences



Five M's

3) **Mixing**

- Individual phone calls
- Individual meetings
- Individual email
- Webinars



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. Matthias**, *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*
- ❖ **Blessed Sacrament**, *Wichita, KS*
- ❖ **Good Shepherd**, *Alexandria, VA*
- ❖ **St. Patrick**, *Scottsdale, AZ*
- ❖ **St. Laurence**, *Sugarland, TX*
- ❖ **St. Agnes**, *Naples, FL*

- Select Diocesan Models (Top 10 in each diocese)

Five M's

5) eMail

- Group email exchange - diocesan, regional or national



Resources

- *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*
USCCB.org
- *Company's Coming*
by Richard J. McCorry
- *When They Come Home*
by Melanie Rigney and
Anna M. Lanave
- *Inviting Catholics Home*
by Sally L. Mews
- *Sustaining and Strengthening
Stewardship* by Jim Kelley
- *Beyond the First Visit*
by Gary L. McIntosh
- VIDEO: *What Visitors See!*
by Gary L. McIntosh
churchgrowthnetwork.com
- *Growing an Engaged Church*
by Albert Winseman
- *Living Your Strengths:
Discover Your God-Given
Talents and Inspire Your
Community*
by Albert Winseman, Donald
Clifton, & Curt Liesveld

Questions and Suggestions

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