



HOW CAN THE PARISH HELP FOSTER STEWARDSHIP FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Over the next six months we will share how various parish roles can help foster stewardship for children and youth. It is in teaching that we learn the best. Let us be open to sharing the message of Stewardship as a way of life.

ROLE OF THE DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

The Director of Youth Ministry is responsible for the catechetical, social, and service opportunities provided for the middle and high school youth of the parish. The teenage years can be both challenging and fruitful in promoting stewardship. Ways in which the Director of Youth Ministry can help foster stewardship include the following:

- Be educated about stewardship. Attend workshops and seminars to stay personally informed about stewardship.
- Model examples of stewardship in their own lives. Teenagers are more apt to embrace stewardship if their youth ministers are living examples of what it means to be a good steward of God's many gifts.
- Provide stewardship education opportunities for the youth. Include a mini-course course on stewardship as part of the curriculum. Include a discussion of the role stewardship plays in their lives.
- Provide meaningful time and talent stewardship opportunities for the youth.
- Advocate youth involvement in all areas of parish life. Promote youth as lectors, Eucharistic ministers, greeters, and ushers. Encourage parish commissions to invite youth to participate as active members.
- Encourage youth to tithe a percentage of the money they raise in fundraising activities to the parish or other causes. Most parish youth groups raise enough money on their car washes, bake sales, or candy sales to return some of the profits to help those in need and still have enough to fund their social activities.



- Encourage tithing/proportionate giving by youth to parish offertory, parish projects, special collections, and other charitable organization. Many teenagers have jobs with more disposable income than many adults do. They should be encouraged to give back with gratitude.
- Encourage family participation in stewardship time and talent actives.
- Focus on prayer. Encourage the youth to be good stewards of their time by including time for formal prayer each day. Provide prayerful retreat experiences

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featuring

- ➔ The Pastor's Role in Fostering Stewardship for Children and Youth
- ➔ Jamaica's: The Ultimate Stewardship Tool

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www.catholicstewardshiplubbock.org

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

Stewardship is more than money. Stewardship is more than the giving of time talent and treasure. Stewardship actually begins with receiving. As Christian stewards, we **receive** God's gifts gratefully. What are the gifts God has given you today? This week? This year? Over your lifetime? A Christian steward acknowledges these gifts from God and **cultivates** them responsibly. How do you take care of the gifts God has given you? Attending training to become a better church volunteer is a way to responsibly care for your God given gifts.

Thirdly, a Christian steward **shares** their gifts lovingly in justice with others. *As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace'(1 Pt 4:10)*. We aren't to use our gifts for selfish reasons. Instead, we should share and give our gifts. True stewards faithfully believe God will give them what they need when they need it. There is no need to hang on to material goods or to keep ourselves from volunteering. If we are practicing stewardship, God will continue to use our gifts and bless us with more gifts.

Finally, and most importantly, a Christian steward **returns** their gifts with increase to the Lord. For example the gift of time can be shared in prayer with God.

“Until you are convinced that Prayer is the best use of your time, you will not find time for Prayer”

A gift of talent can be returned by joining a parish ministry and the gift of treasure should be returned to the church and the needy. (To clarify any confusion: the USCCB suggests a tithe of 5% to your parish and 5% to the charity of your choice. This is 10% of your income before taxes.)

Yes, being a Christian steward is difficult. In this secular world we are bullied into buying things we don’t need, sharing our talents with negative people and spending our time on the internet or watching TV.

STEWARDSHIP CHALLENGE: For the rest of the day, when you reach for your phone, **stop**, say a prayer and listen for the voice of God. Try these two prayers to encourage your mediation:

“Speak Father, your steward is listening”

“Dear Lord, I pray that you give me the wisdom to guide me on this faith journey of stewardship. Help me to understand that everything I have is a gift from You.

Open my heart and my mind so that I may use these marvelous gifts to give back to You here on earth.

I pray Lord that You welcome me into Your kingdom at the end of my life and that You are pleased with what I have done with all your gifts. Amen.”

FREE WEBINAR:

THE SPIRITUALITY OF STEWARDSHIP: PRACTICAL IDEAS



Stewardship is a way of life that functions with four core values of identity, trust, gratitude, and love. We learn to give a gift back to God in thanksgiving for what God

has given. At the parish level a variety of approaches effect the collection based upon how these values are emphasized. A key idea is that **we have a need to give before giving to a need**. The role of the pastor along with logistical practices moves parishioners to understand the importance of being generous. Congregations always have different stages of growth with a variety of audiences. Practical, step-by-step suggestions help authentic stewardship to be a tool for evangelization. God will give us the resources to bring the parish to life. Want to learn more? Attend the August webinar for FREE Tuesday, August 12th at 1:00 p.m.

This webinar is presented by Rev. Andrew Kemberling, Pastor of St. Thomas More Parish in Centennial, CO (see bio on back). Each webinar is normally \$59.00 per parish (*that’s over \$400 a year*) But the Office of Stewardship and Development has paid your way! This webinar series is **FREE TO YOU**. Please take advantage of the investment we have made in your parish. These esteemed presenters provide quality education at costs much larger than

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Upcoming Webinars

S Basic Steps for Developing a Parish Strategic Plan

E September 13 - 1:00 p.m.



P Hospitality as a Key to Stewardship

O October 10 - 1:00 p.m.

C Best Practices in Parish Stewardship

T November 11 - 1:00 p.m.

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Price

\$129.00 USD per registrant

August

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sert **August** when prompted for the discount code.

You will receive an e-mail confirmation from Tracy Stewart with the link you will use to join the webinar on Tuesday August 12

SAVE THIS E-MAIL. Your parish can watch the webinar from the same computer, or you can register on different computers and watch in the comfort of your own office or home!

All 2014 webinars will be the second Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. Set aside this date and time for the

Did you miss last month’s webinar? Watch recording here: <http://bit.ly/RCDLTheAskWebinar>