

Realizing Your Parish's Potential

Theology of Stewardship

It had been said that stewardship is being honest with God. It is not just another method of raising money, or a way for parishioners to save on their taxes. Stewardship is about living the life that God calls all of us to life. Stewardship is rooted in Christ's call to each and every one of us to "come and follow" Him. It is important to remember that stewardship is not a program that the parish conducts one month each year. Rather, stewardship is a way of life. It involves every aspect of our life.

Stewardship is the way parishioners should respond to Christ's call. It means "I will be your disciple." With each parishioner living out his or her role as a disciple, the parish will experience the financial and spiritual growth needed to carry out the Church's mission. While we each have a unique place in God's divine plan, the disciple's role is clearly defined for us by the framework of stewardship. Thus, we know what is expected of us as disciples. We are called to return a portion of what God has so graciously given to us – our Time, Talent, and Treasure. When this framework of stewardship is established throughout an entire parish, God can accomplish wonderful things.

Stewardship is very intimately connected with a parish's communication, education and evangelization efforts. When people's hearts have been touched, when they are experiencing a personal relationship with Christ – essentially when they are evangelized – then their financial returns to God through the parish will follow. As each parishioner experiences conversion of heart, the needs of the church will be met! With a clear vision, strong leadership and the grace of the Holy Spirit, every parish can improve the spiritual morale and the concrete expression of stewardship among its parishioners through their gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure.

Stewardship is a concept that is rooted in the Bible. We have listed below some Biblical references to Stewardship.

Old Testament

Lev. 27: 30
Dt. 14: 22-29
Dt. 15: 7-8
Dt. 16: 10-17
Dt. 26: 1-4
1 Chr. 29: 14-16
Ps. 24: 1
Ps. 116: 12
Prov. 3: 9
Prov. 11: 24
Prov. 28: 27
Eccl. 5: 9-16
Sirch 35: 7-10
Mal. 3: 8-10

New Testament

Mt. 6: 19-21
Mt. 6: 25-34
Mt. 9: 37-38
Mt. 10: 8
Mt. 13: 44
Mt. 13: 45-46
Mt. 18: 23-25
Mt. 20: 1-16
Mt. 24: 45-51
Mt. 25: 14-30
Mk. 12: 1-12
Lk. 7: 41-43
Lk. 12: 16-21
Lk. 13: 6-9
Lk. 15: 11-32
Lk. 16: 1-9
Lk. 16: 19-31
Lk. 18: 1-8
Acts 4: 34
Acts 20: 35
Rom. 12: 6-8
1 Cor. 4: 1-2
1 Cor 16: 1
2 Cor. 4: 1-2
2 Cor. 8
2 Cor. 9: 6-12
Ga. 6: 9
Phil. 4: 11-12

1 Tim. 6: 7-9
James 2: 14-17
James 4: 2-3
James 4: 13-15
1 Pet. 4: 8-10
1 Jn. 3: 17-18