

STEWARDSHIP PARISH RECOGNITION

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. The International Catholic Stewardship Council Board has developed a self-assessment tool to help each parish evaluate its stewardship way of life with Him in their midst.

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