

e-STEWARD NEWSLETTER

Office of Stewardship & Development

One Cathedral Square

Providence, Rhode Island 02903

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e-Steward is a semi-annual newsletter created by the Office of Stewardship & Development to keep you up-to-date regarding news and information concerning the practice of Christian stewardship within the Diocese of Providence. We hope that you will find this newsletter to be both helpful and informative as you embark on your parish's journey of faith or annual renewal of stewardship.

Pastor and people together build and maintain a stewardship parish. Stewarding parishes have a special look and feel about them:

- ✚ People flock to Sunday Mass, and other devotions because they want to spend time in prayer.
- ✚ People feel welcome in the Church, whether they are life-long members, strangers, practicing Catholics or long separated.
- ✚ People look for ways to put their talents to work in service to the Lord. This is not just volunteering – it's ministering.
- ✚ People share their faith. At Mass or in prayer groups, they share directly. They also share their faith indirectly by the example they set in the home, workplace, and community.
- ✚ People are generous in sharing their resources to meet the needs of the parish, diocese, Universal Church, and the community. They rarely have to be asked; they give out of gratitude to God for all they have received.
- ✚ People and pastor ask regularly: "What does God need us to do, at this time, in this place?" And they act on their answers.

YOU MIGHT BE A GOOD STEWARD IF...

- ...you sincerely believe that God is the source of all your blessings.
- ...you desire to give back a portion of the many gifts you have received from God.
- ...you return a portion of your blessings to God out of gratitude, not from the sense of duty or because someone asks you to.
- ...you believe that everything you have and everything in the world around you is not yours but is on loan from God; you care for it accordingly.
- ...you understand that stewardship is not an option but an obligation for you as a disciple of Jesus.

We'd like to hear from you!

Do you have proven stewardship ideas about how to keep the spirit of stewardship alive in your parish? Just e-mail your ideas to rspirito@dioceseofprovidence.org and we will share them with others in the 2008 fall edition of the e-Steward Newsletter.

Interested in attending a conference on stewardship? This year's International Catholic Stewardship Conference will be held in Chicago from October 12 to 15, 2008. If you would like more information about this four day conference, please call Robert Spirito at 277-2121.

Stewardship Day 2008

If your parish is thinking of beginning, reviving, or renewing your stewardship efforts, consider this your invitation to Stewardship Day 2008. The day will include...

- ... two keynote presentations from well-known speakers on stewardship.
- ... four breakout sessions focusing on the practical implementation of stewardship within a parish community.
- ... a wonderful opportunity to mingle and learn about proven stewardship ideas from parishioners around the diocese.

We will keep you informed about our plans for a diocesan Stewardship Day scheduled for the fall of 2008.



Stewardship

A Way of Life

My church is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is. It will be friendly, if I am. Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them. It will do great work, if I work. It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver. It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, if I invite and bring them. It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things. Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my church to be.