

# e-STEWARD NEWSLETTER

Office of Stewardship & Development

One Cathedral Square

Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Volume 3

Spring 2009

Number 1

*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.*

## Elements of a Successful Parish Ministry Fair

### 1. Publicity:

- ✚ Ministry Fairs generate awareness and enthusiasm among parishioners. This will ultimately increase parish ministry and involvement. The Months of September, October and November usually draw the largest audience. The fair is part of the Stewardship Weekend activities.
- ✚ Use bulletin and pulpit announcements, flyers and mailings to promote the fair. Forward information to all parish leaders.
- ✚ Have a photographer on hand at all times during the fair. Displaying the photos after the fair will further publicize the event.

### 2. Ministry Sign-up:

- ✚ Contact leaders of all parish ministries to ensure their participation. Confirm the appropriate number of volunteers are scheduled to staff their booth.
- ✚ Complete a brief description of each ministry with contact names and telephone numbers. This information can be included in a program for all guests.
- ✚ A guest book at each booth can be provided so those interested in learning more about the ministry or those who wish to participate can be contacted.

### 3. Theme and Materials:

- ✚ A general theme for the entire fair should be decided upon. Share the theme with leaders of ministry and encourage them to decorate their booth.
- ✚ Each ministry should have two representatives to greet guests and answer any questions.
- ✚ Flyers and brochures should be displayed to explain the purpose of the ministry. Photos of past events and a list of upcoming events add to the display.
- ✚ Vibrant displays will work in exciting guests and will draw their attention.
- ✚ The primary purpose of the fair is to inform and educate. Creating a relaxed, informational only atmosphere during the fair is of the utmost importance.
- ✚ Light refreshments add the finishing touch to your fair.

Produced by the Office of Stewardship & Development and available as a resource for your parish, the video entitled, *An Introduction to the Stewardship Lay Witness Presentation*, has received the 2008 Award for Excellence in the category of Diocesan Stewardship Video by the International Catholic Stewardship Council. If you are interested in this video, please call our office at (401) 277-2121.

## IDEALS OF STEWARDSHIP

- ✓ Stewardship is not a program; it is a way of life.
- ✓ Stewardship is not an activity; it is an attitude.
- ✓ Stewardship is not the latest fad; it is biblically based.
- ✓ Stewardship is not a way to raise money; it is a way to attain holiness.
- ✓ Stewardship is not just a decision of the head; it requires a conversion of the heart.

## YOU MIGHT BE A GOOD STEWARD IF...

- ...you give proportionately of your time, talent and treasure to God's work in your parish and in your community.
- ...you accept your Christian call to be hospitable and welcoming to all you meet, especially in your parish.
- ...you actively seek opportunities to share your time, talent and treasure; you rarely have to be asked to help or volunteer.
- ...you look forward to celebrating and spending time with your fellow parishioners.
- ...you truly believe it is "more blessed to give than to receive."

## STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Almighty Father, we thank you for all the gifts You have given to us: our lives, our loved ones; all that we have and all that we are. Most of all, we thank You for Jesus, Your Son and our Redeemer, who came among us to show us the way to eternal life. Jesus was the perfect Steward of Your gifts, showing us that complete trust in You is necessary, and that giving of self is a most important part of following Him. May the offerings of our time, our talents and our material resources be made in the same spirit of sacrifice that Jesus taught us by His life and death for us.