

e-STEWARD NEWSLETTER

Office of Stewardship & Development

One Cathedral Square

Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Volume 4

Spring 2010

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.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

Eucharist and Liturgy

The Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith. The most important gift to us as Catholics is the Eucharist and the celebration of the liturgy as given to us by Jesus in the Last Supper. Good liturgy is formed by faithful stewardship of this gift from Jesus and good stewardship is inspired by good liturgy.

Leadership

The pastor, parish staff and lay leaders must be committed to a continuous stewardship process in the parish that should be reflected in the mission statement and vision.

Sharing Resources

A stewardship parish reaches out and shares its financial resources beyond the parish community to the diocese and beyond to the greater Church and community in which it is a part.

Outreach

In addition to sharing financial resources, a stewardship parish provides opportunities and encourages all members to use their time and talents to serve others.

Stewardship Plan

Stewardship is not a single act, but a commitment that must be renewed and revitalized regularly. The "Stewardship Journey" for each parishioner must be supported and encouraged by the parish community with regular education and an annual renewal process. Stewardship parishes have a year-long plan for this catechesis.

Communication

A stewardship parish has a communications plan that includes the regular sharing of information, news of upcoming events and special announcements. This plan includes the use of various methods of communication and is intended to keep parishioners invested and involved in the parish.

Accountability is a critical aspect of parish stewardship. The communication plan includes annual and regular reports of finances and all aspects of parish life.

Continued...

Stewardship Committee

A stewardship parish has an active stewardship committee whose charge is to direct and monitor the total stewardship effort and its integration into all aspects of parish life.

Spiritual Life

A stewardship parish exhibits a vibrant and growing spiritual life which includes many forms of worship, prayer and devotion. The number of parishioners who participate in this spiritual life is always increasing.

Education

Stewardship is an integral part of the faith formation program of a stewardship parish (and school if applicable) and is multi-generational in scope. Stewardship is taught, nurtured and developed through year-round formation activities.

Hospitality

In a stewardship parish, a vibrant hospitality and welcoming program is in place that helps create ownership, involvement and outreach to newcomers, homebound and those on the fringes of parish life.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT STEWARDSHIP

I hear about time, talent and treasure, but this is all about treasure isn't it?

No, each facet of sharing our gifts is equally important. Individuals who participate in parish ministries and community activities sharing their time and talents gratefully are Christian stewards. Our involvement, when done to thank the Lord for our blessing and to share His love with others, is a demonstration of our desire to live out our baptismal promise to follow Jesus. Sharing our treasure is important to helping our parishes and ministries fulfill the Gospel message, but no matter how we give thanks (time, talent or treasure), all our efforts have meaning.

A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

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 up 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.