



## **A Stewardship Parish...**

- is warm and hospitable.
- is active and vibrant.

## **With parishioners that...**

- recognize and share their many gifts and talents.
- are committed to be prayerful disciples of Jesus Christ.
- are active and involved in the life of their parish.
- are consciously grateful.
- make a joyful return to God for all His gifts.

**Does your parish embrace stewardship as a way of life?**



TIME · TALENT · TREASURE

If you would like more information about  
stewardship, please contact us at:

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**Diocese of Providence**

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**We all want our parishes  
to be more lively.**

**So, here's some food  
for thought...**

**Remember that hungry  
people go where they  
are fed.**



**Stewardship**  
can help feed your people!



# What is Stewardship?

As Catholics, we are encouraged to share what we have with others, to respect our neighbors as ourselves and to assist those less fortunate. We typically respond to this request when asked and proceed to go about our daily lives until the next request is heard. What most individuals do not realize is that by sharing of ourselves and helping those around us, we are, in essence, practicing Christian stewardship.

In 1992, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops expanded on this principle when they published a Pastoral Letter entitled *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*. Their definition of stewardship reached far beyond financial contributions and encouraged Catholics to live their lives as disciples of Jesus.

This thought conversion begins a life-long process of sharing our gifts of **Time, Talent and Treasure** out of gratitude, not out of obligation. Living our lives as true stewards reminds us of our baptismal promises and becomes the motivational force behind our actions.

No matter how you attempt to evaluate the effectiveness of stewardship, stewardship is basically an attitude and a spirit that is very difficult to measure. **However, take a look at how stewardship has changed the life of two parish communities.**



TIME · TALENT · TREASURE

# HERE'S WHAT STEWARDSHIP

## Christ the King Parish in Kingston

In 1988, Father Joseph Creedon planted the stewardship seed at Christ the King Parish. Grown into a healthy and fruitful tree, stewardship has blossomed into what the pastor refers to as the “Theology of Involvement.” In other words, there is a direct correlation between the number of people living their baptismal commitment—good stewards—and the vibrancy of the parish.

Christ the King Parish is committed to donating at least 10% of its gross annual parish income. In Monthly Sharing Program meetings, parishioners nominate various agencies that merit financial support. Organizations such as the Community Food Bank and Habitat for Humanity are among those that have received \$2,500 stewardship grants. In 1991, Christ the King began a sister parish relationship with the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Providence.

### Since 1988...

- ✓ the number of registered families has increased by 776, an increase of 84%.
- ✓ the annual ordinary income has increased by 242%.
- ✓ the number of ministries and opportunities to serve in the life of the parish now totals 51, a 54% increase.

“Stewardship is a spirituality that gives flesh and bones to the Church as the “People of God.” With Stewardship, all members of the parish are challenged to live out their baptismal commitment.”

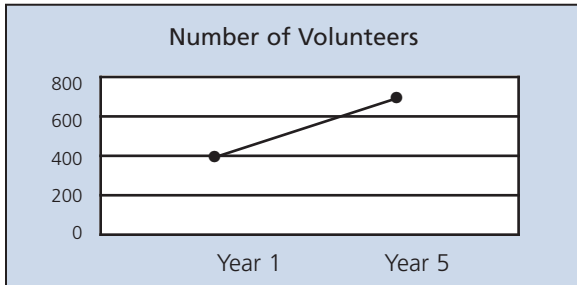
Rev. Joseph D. Creedon  
*Pastor*

# WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR PARISH

## Saint John Vianney Parish in Cumberland

In 1999, representatives from the Office of Stewardship & Development and a core parish committee met to discuss stewardship and its benefits to parish life. By sharing their gifts of time, talent, and treasure in gratitude to God, Saint John Vianney Parish has experienced a spiritual growth that has enriched this community of faith.

- ✓ Registered families have increased by 13%
- ✓ Commitments of treasure have increased by 42%
- ✓ The number of ministries has increased by 10, bringing the total number of parish ministries to 39
- ✓ The number of parish volunteers is up by 57%



“Many programs, letters, and directives cross a pastor’s desk. Each one is noble, decent, and worthwhile. What a pastor needs is something that will give his parish a vision, a direction, a certain wholeness. Since Stewardship has been part of our parish life, it has helped immensely in putting order and importance to the many things we do in a parish. Stewardship has given us a sense of direction and vision—no small accomplishment in today’s parish!”

*Rev. Raymond C. Theroux*  
*Pastor*