

e-STEWARD NEWSLETTER

Office of Stewardship & Development

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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.

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR BEGINNING A STEWARDSHIP JOURNEY IN YOUR PARISH

-  Begin educating your parish about stewardship. This should be done on all levels, including pastor's homilies, a regular bulletin column, bulletin boards and during faith formation classes. The idea and language of stewardship should be implemented on all levels.
-  Evaluate your parish's current method for registering parishioners. It is important that the newly registered are properly introduced and made to feel welcome. This is an opportunity to discover what the newly registered can offer the parish and to share what the parish has to offer them.
-  Put into place a yearly ministry fair which will afford parishioners the opportunity to discover what programs and ministries are available and how they can become involved.
-  Don't be afraid to "personally" ask people to get involved. When you realize a person has a certain talent in an area and they are asked specifically because they possess this talent, they are more likely to respond positively.
-  Put into place a program for recognizing and thanking volunteers on a regular basis. Institute a "volunteer spotlight" column in the weekly church bulletin. Consider having your religious education students make cards thanking the volunteers.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT STEWARDSHIP

What gifts do I have and what does this really mean?

God gifts every one of us with special talents, skills and attributes that are uniquely ours. Hopefully, over the course of our lives and through our relationship with Jesus, we understand what these gifts are and use them to better ourselves, our families, our communities and all those around us. By sharing our gifts through the sharing of our time, our specific talents and the resources these talents bring to us, we share God's love with others. What this really means is that our acts of giving should not just be to meet needs, but also to give God our thanks for all that has been given to us.

How does being a Christian Steward relate to the Catholic Charity Appeal?

So many of us have been blessed with many talents that have brought us ample resources for our families and ourselves. Today within our diocese, there are many people who turn to the Church for help. A gift to the Catholic Charity Appeal, given in gratitude for the blessings you have received is the act of a Christian Steward. Such a gift comes from our need to give, not just to give to the need. Jesus asks us to "love one another as I have loved you," and the Catholic Charity Appeal is one way that we as the entire Catholic community of Rhode Island can come together to say thank you.

A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Almighty Father, you have called us together as a community of faith here at a new beginning. We thank you for all the gifts you have given us: our lives, our loved ones, all that we have and all that we are. May your Spirit give us the grace to recognize our gifts and the faith to use them in service to you. Make us good stewards of all we have received, generously sharing our time, talent and treasure to further your mission here on earth. Show us the joy of generosity; remind us that our world needs "Good Samaritans" to heal the wounds of our times. Make us a gift to others in your name, so that when our time on earth is through, we may be welcomed into your heavenly kingdom and hear you say, "Well done, my good and faithful servant."