

# e-STEWARD NEWSLETTER

Office of Stewardship & Development

One Cathedral Square

Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Volume 6

Spring 2012

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.*

## TIPS FOR MANAGING THE INEVITABLE RESISTANCE TO CHANGE

No matter how carefully you develop your plans and how thoughtfully you include people in the process, resistance is an inevitable part of the change cycle. These pointers may help you manage resistance to Stewardship.

### **Involve a wide range of leaders when establishing Stewardship in your parish.**

The more people you are able to involve in the planning and development phase of Stewardship, the more people will understand what you are doing and will support your effort. A broad base of involved and supportive parishioners also ensures a process that meets the unique needs of your parish.

### **Work to support parish ministries most receptive to increased involvement.**

Nothing succeeds like success. Showcase programs where Stewardship can demonstrate support to established priorities within the parish.

### **Seek quality over quantity**

It is better to do a few things well than to try too many new things at once. Be sure your processes are in place and working before you branch out into new areas.

### **Remember who your parish is**

Don't abandon current needs and programs when venturing into new, challenging or experimental ministries. For example, if you have a large number of elderly, continue to address their needs as you reach into the community with a new ministry.

### **Be realistic**

It takes no less than 18 months to lay a solid foundation for an effective time and talent ministry phase and anywhere from three to five years to begin to reap the benefits of parishioners equipped and prepared for ministry. Allow your Stewardship process sufficient time to do the job right.

## CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP IS...

- ...placing our trust in God – completely, and realizing that all we have is a gift from the Lord.
- ...thanking God for all that we have been given.
- ...respecting the dignity of the gift of every human life.
- ...fostering a loving Christian community for ourselves and our families.
- ...recognizing the special call to use our gifts to protect and advance the cause of those who are poor, oppressed, vulnerable and exploited.
- ...taking the Gospel and what we profess at Mass and living as the Body of Christ every day through Christian witness and service.
- ...putting our faith and our baptismal promises into action both here and abroad.
- ...communicating the message of Jesus to all people by using the resources and technologies of today's world.
- ...being conscious of our faith, our relationships with God and each other in our homes, workplaces, communities and societies.
- ...believing that we are caretakers, not owners of the Earth God has created for us.
- ...making a plan as to how we will use the gifts of time, talent and material possessions God has entrusted to us.

## A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Lord Jesus,

I give you my hands to do your work.  
I give you my feet to go your way.  
I give you my eyes to see as you see.  
I give you my tongue to speak your words.  
I give you my mind to think as you think.  
I give you my spirit so that you may pray in me.  
I give you my self so that you may grow in me.  
So that it is you, Lord Jesus, who lives and works and prays in me.

Amen.