

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.

TIME

The time given to us as stewards of this earth is a precious gift, which God wants us to use wisely. We must never forget that Jesus was born "in the fullness of time" and saved us in human history. We are born in time, baptized in time and invited to live lives of faith within the precious gift of time. Time is a consumable but non-renewable gift. Therefore, the faithful and responsible celebration of time is a vital part of Christian stewardship. *"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace."*

(1 Peter 4:10)

TALENT

God gives us many gifts – our faith, the love and affection of friends and family, our possessions – to name but a few. As good stewards, as good Catholics, we need to discover more and better ways to express our gratitude. As individuals and as members of the community of faith, we have been blessed with many talents. Stewardship invites us to offer our gifts and talents to our parish in order to build up the kingdom of God on earth. Some are able to organize, some are teachers, still others have the ability to visit the sick and listen with great care. Talents are not better or worse, talents are just different. Together we can always do more than when we act alone. We are not called to be passive beneficiaries but active doers of the work of God. *"There are different kinds of gifts but the same spirit: there are different forms of service but the same Lord."*

(1 Corinthians 12:4)

TREASURE

We have all been blessed with riches. We live in a land of plenty and reap the benefits. Stewardship invites us to recognize how God blesses our efforts and enriches our lives. When we recognize God's part in our lives and His part in our success, we will be eager to make a return to God for all He gives us. It is not enough to just thank God; we must make a return to God from our possessions. True stewardship of treasure should flow from our need to give and not be tempered by a response to a proven need. Responding to a proven need is charity. Charity is important, but far less than true stewardship. True stewardship is much more than charity because it responds to a need in our hearts more than the need in our world. *"It is in giving that we receive..."*

(Prayer of Saint Francis)

Which Parish Will Have a Successful Stewardship Weekend?

PARISH A

In the weeks leading up to the parish's Stewardship Weekend, the Stewardship Committee promotes and advertises using bulletin and pulpit announcements as well as posters and banners.

PARISH B

In his opening remarks, the pastor announces to parishioners at Mass that this is the parish's Stewardship Weekend.

Which Parish Will Have a Successful Stewardship Weekend?

PARISH A

The pastor incorporates a stewardship theme within the homily at all Masses that weekend.

PARISH B

There is no homily...someone from a mission is speaking today.

Which Parish Will Have a Successful Stewardship Weekend?

PARISH A

Lay witness presenter(s) speak about their stewardship experience; and at the conclusion of their talk, they encourage their fellow parishioners to visit the Ministry Fair.

PARISH B

There are Lay witness presentations but they occurred three weekends ago.

Which Parish Will Have a Successful Stewardship Weekend?

PARISH A

Vibrant and creative poster boards are displayed along with brochures and materials on each parish ministry table.

PARISH B

All that appears on the ministry table is a sign-up sheet.

A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

O God, our loving Creator and Giver of all good gifts, bless our parishes and our diocese, strengthen our faith and grant us the spirit of Christian stewardship so that we may give generously of our time, talent and treasure to the spreading of your Kingdom here in our church, our diocese and throughout the world. This we ask through Jesus Christ your Son, Our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.