

**Part IV: Stewards of the Church:**

What does it mean when we say that “the church is in our care?” Simply put, we are caretakers and investors of our Parish. As investors, we must take time to care for our spiritual home. Many of our Parishes have been our spiritual home for decades. Think about how much of your life is spent in your Parish. We are baptized in the Parish, we mature and grow into adulthood through the influence of our Parish family, we celebrate love through marriage, we bless our children, and in a bittersweet way, we say goodbye to loved ones. We are intimately connected to our spiritual home. We must acknowledge that being a steward of the church does not only apply to the care of the Parish building, but the Parish family that is tied together within it.

We all have a responsibility to nurture, maintain, and grow our Parish communities in a way that extends the welcome to all who wish to join us. Just as each of us takes care of our own health and well-being, our larger Body, the Body of the Church must too be cared for as generously and with as much attention as our own. It is through our participation as caretakers and investors of our spiritual homes, that we draw closer together as a Parish community that is alive and vibrant.

**Stewardship Recommendation:**

Consider developing a “Stewardship Celebration” report. Similar to an annual report, this report would highlight the many ways the Parish creates a culture of stewardship through its many parts. Individual stewards would be highlighted, particular ministries could be highlighted, and a review of all the “stats” of stewardship in the parish could be reported. This shouldn’t be a financial document, rather an examination of how the Parish is alive through stewardship.