

Developing Stewardship Leadership at Your Parish

A Stewardship Committee at a local Parish provides messaging and opportunities to cultivate a greater sense of faithful participation. Stewardship, simply put, is the way we participate in our Catholic faith expressed through broad categories of time, talent, and treasure. Time is often associated with spiritual time, providing one's time to God, Church, and family. Talent is often associated with the talents we have all been uniquely gifted to us from God. Treasure, is our expression of a financial offering to ensure that our liturgies, ministries, and programs are able to meet our community's needs.

Creating a Stewardship Vision

Stewardship doesn't mean the same thing to everyone. A variety of factors can contribute to one's understanding of stewardship and gathering all of these ideas on stewardship is a critical step in creating a culture of stewardship at the Parish. When we can blend together a series of values and practices on stewardship, we are creating our Parish stewardship vision.

Creating Your Stewardship Mission Statement

Once you have surveyed your parishioners and have an understanding of the commonalities in understanding stewardship, you are ready to articulate the Stewardship Mission of your Parish. The Stewardship Mission should outline how you intend to participate in your faith life from the parishioner point of view and as a Parish. It should be a statement that highlights all aspects of stewardship, from making time to pray, to sharing our talents as a liturgical singer, to contributing as a family to the offertory on Sundays. This mission statement will describe how your Parish communicates and practices stewardship.

Committee Structure, Size, and Responsibilities

- The Stewardship Committee generally functions under the Parish council with the general responsibility of communicating the stewardship vision of the Parish and encouraging participation
- The size of the committee can vary, but typically you are looking for a wide variety of parishioners from all types of Parish ministries. Your committee should not be made up of one singular council, i.e. the Finance committee.
- The responsibilities of the stewardship committee typically revolve around marketing the message of stewardship in the parish and creating events or opportunities for parishioners to engage in the culture of stewardship at their Parish. Responsibilities can include:
 - Bulletin, website, and eblast marketing of stories of stewardship
 - Sunday renewal weekend or Stewardship Sunday
 - Ministry Fairs
 - Parishioner Welcome Ministry and Acknowledgement committee
 - Creation of an Annual Stewardship Report

Qualities of Committee Members:

- They are spirituality motivated.
- They exemplify stewardship values and practice stewardship as a way of life.
- They commit to creating a culture of stewardship.

General rule of thumb, if the committee description wouldn't attract one of Jesus' disciples, it might not be comprehensive enough.