

The importance of the lay witness in the parish stewardship effort



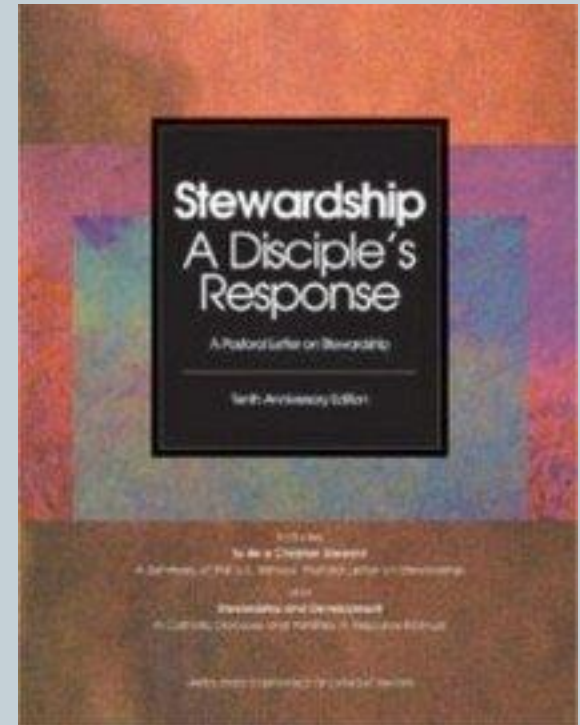
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Stewardship and the Pastoral Letter



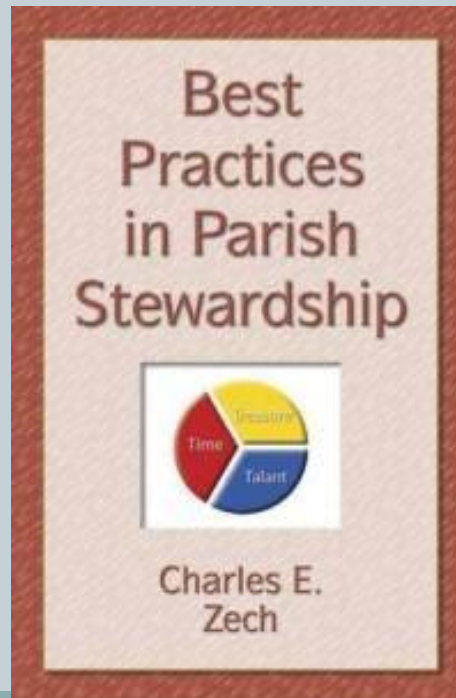
- 2002 10th Anniversary edition appendix
- Promoting Gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure...Seven Steps to Success
- Step one....Personal Witness!



Stewardship and Research



- 2008 research by Chuck Zech
- *Best Practices in Parish Stewardship*
- Successful stewardship parishes use Lay Witnesses



Focus of Stewardship



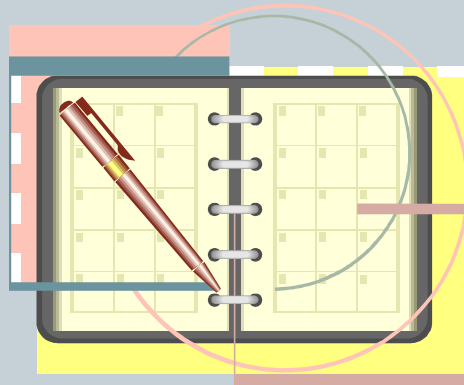
- Individual's need to give out of gratitude, not the Church's need to receive
- Intentional, planned and proportionate
- We are all gifted
- Giving of the First Fruits of our time, talent and treasure
- Stewardship of time involves first our time spent with God in prayer and sacrament



Focus of Stewardship



- Embraces all aspects of our life...Family, Church, Community
- Putting God **FIRST** in our lives...calendars and checkbooks
- Involves **TRUST** in God's will
- Steward is **PROACTIVE**



Focus...a sense of personal joy and fulfillment



- Build a deep trust in God's Divine Providence
- Grow in a more intimate relationship with Jesus Christ
- Learn to distinguish between "wants" and "needs"
- Find great satisfaction in serving others
- Develop a real balance in life
- Deepen prayer life
- Learn to prioritize
- Develop a sense of accountability
- Learn to develop God-given gifts and talents
- Always put God first

Where does it fit?



- At weekend Masses...after the homily or post communion
- At parish meetings
- Catechetical gatherings
- Dinners



What does the witness do?



- Tell their story!
- NBC News “making a difference”
- Archbishop Thomas Murphy’s witness to giving the “gift of life” during his illness
- Gospel writers and their witness
- Not “tooting our own horn” ... but witnessing to the generosity of a loving God
- Changes people’s lives!

Role of the Witness



Inspire and Invite

Share your own real-life story

Who should serve as a Lay Witness?



Take a look at your parish demographics



Who should serve as a Lay Witness?



- Spiritually motivated PARISHIONER
- The ideal witness is a parishioner.....Someone who is comfortable speaking in front of a group



Questions?



Let's take a break for questions...



What to say?



What to say?



First...Introduce himself or herself.

Second...Properly define stewardship

Third...Talk about your own practice of stewardship

Fourth...Talk about how you experience the benefits of the stewardship way of life

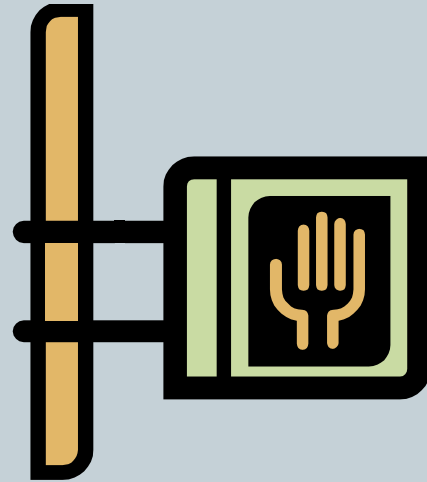
Fifth...Invite your fellow parishioners to join you in embracing stewardship as a way of life

Tips for the Lay Witness



- Meet with the pastor to discuss the talk
- Pray, Pray, Pray (When you are asked...After you say “yes”...While preparing...Before Mass...When walking to the ambo...When you are finished!)
- Prepare your talk
- Rehearse, rehearse, rehearse....
- Be yourself

“Do’s & Don’ts”



Do



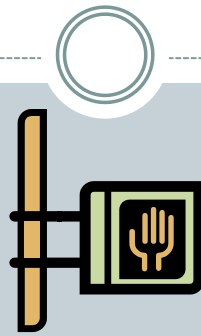
- Explain that stewardship is about giving of the “first fruits” and not “leftovers.”
- Talk about the personal need of each Christian to give back out of gratitude.
- Acknowledge that you are not in this alone by using phrasing such as “Many of you know from your own personal experience that what I have told you is true.”
- Stress the sense of joy and fulfillment that come from giving God the first share of time, talent, and treasure.

Do



- Talk about intentional, planned and proportionate giving.
- Emphasize the importance of giving of all three, “Time, Talent, and Treasure.”
- Speak about how stewardship involves not only our Church, but every aspect of our lives, including our community involvement.
- Use scriptural references when appropriate.

Don't



- Speak in terms of bargaining with God.
- Talk about the needs of the Church or the budget.
- Talk in terms of dollar amounts or time amounts.
- Use threats of possible consequences from failure to give.
- Talk about stewardship as an obligation...speak in terms of opportunity.

“Go out and make disciples...”



The first disciples took Jesus very seriously...



Questions?



Now for any closing questions...

