

# **Keeping a Spiritual Perspective in a Tough Economy**

**St. Paul the Apostle  
Catholic Church**

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# Context

1. Trust in God and keep priorities in order.
2. Despite economic decline, people support their main causes where they feel the most attachment and the most connected. The main thing is to know the main thing and keep the main thing the main thing. It's all about relationships.

# Context

3. We can't control events but can work toward greater control over creative responses to events.
4. Believe in abundance. Work to overcome the perception of scarcity. There are resources for the cause.

# Context

5. Focus on gratitude because we still have so much to be grateful for.
6. Stewardship has multiple positive effects on parish life.
7. We are experiencing a crisis of confidence which, when accentuated by the media, results in skepticism, doubt and self fulfilling prophecies.
8. Focus on hope, faith, sharing, accountability ... and impact.

**Responses to  
Keeping it Spiritual from a  
Giving Perspective**

# 1. Form Stewards

- *Why Catholics Don't Give...and What Can Be Done About It*
- *Best Practices in Parish Stewardship*
- Focus of Stewardship
- Committee, annual renewal effort, year round awareness

Handouts – Focus of Stewardship, Committee Responsibilities, *Best Practices in Parish Stewardship* summary

## 2. Point to Jesus for What's Important

- Prayer
- Sacred Scripture
- Faith, hope, love, family, friends
- Increase opportunities for people to grow in their relationship with Jesus

### **3. Pastoral Letter...Promoting Gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure to the Parish: Seven Steps to Success**

1. Personal Witness
2. Commitment of Leadership
3. Hospitality, Evangelization and Outreach
4. Communication and Education
5. Recruiting, training and recognizing gifts of time and talent



### **3. Pastoral Letter...Promoting Gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure to the Parish: Seven Steps to Success**

#### **6. Stewardship of Treasure—do 1 – 5!**

- Has the parish effectively witnessed to the value of stewardship as a way of life?
- Is the leadership fully committed?
- Are parishioners actively involved in ministries of hospitality, evangelization and service?
- How effective are your communications
- Are gifts of time and talent really welcome?

#### **7. Accountability**

# 4. Build Stronger Relationships

- Hospitality
- Gratitude – letters, bulletins, pulpit, calls
- Service
- Step up your ministry efforts

Handout – Hospitality

# 5. Communicate Well

- Educate parishioners about cost of running the parish and the impact of their gifts of time, talent and treasure.
- Tell stories of people and ministries.
- Talk about the impact of giving at the parish level.
- Share a different perspective—keep things positive!

Handouts—St. Matthew Bulletin Inserts

# Communicate Well (Continued)

- Keep asking for commitments of time, talent and treasure through a well-planned stewardship effort.
- Keep in touch with people who have become disengaged; continue to nurture the relationship and let them know you are concerned.
- Pray for and offer assistance to those out of work.