

## Definition of Stewardship

A Christian Steward is one who receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others and returns them with increase to the Lord.

*US Catholic Bishop's Statement from "Stewardship: A Disciple's Response"*

### IN OTHER WORDS:

Receive God's gifts gratefully-

***What have I been given?***

Develop God's gifts responsibly -

***What might be?***

Share God's gifts lovingly -

***How can I use them?***

Return my gifts to God with increase -

***Where can I give?***

## Witness Speaker Outline and Check Off List:

- Introduce yourself with a brief description. Explain what stewardship means to you. (1 minute)
  - Tell your story. How do you decide which talents to share in ministry to your parish? How does it tie in to Stewardship? (3-4 minutes)
  - How does it make you feel to give back to your parish and to God? (1 minute)
- humble - blessed - faithful - fulfilled - grateful*
- You or the Pastor/Presider may do the 'Ask'. Check with Stewardship coordinator. Some good words are: Today I am asking every one of you to make a commitment to Stewardship of Talent to one of the ministries in our parish. Everyone has God-given strengths that they can use to benefit the Body of Christ. Our parish has ministries that are physical and ministries that are spiritual. Sign up for one that inspires you and be sure to tell them how to go about that. Talent and Ministry sign up sheets in the pews is a good idea. Also mention if you have online sign-ups. (2 minutes)

## Parish Stewardship Talent Witness Guide

**Archdiocese of Seattle**

710 9th Ave

Seattle WA 98104

[www.seattlearchdiocese.org](http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org)



***Thank you!***

## Why Witnessing?

People relate far more readily to God's blessings than to parish needs. When motivated to give out of gratitude and justice, they begin to give the gift God really wants: **THEMSELVES!**

Emphasizing church needs encourages minimal giving. Emphasizing the 'need to give', maximizes both giving and its spiritual benefits: **DEEPENED FAITH AND CHRISTIAN JOY.**

Suggesting that Parish Stewardship is an obligation invites challenges we can never answer. It should be seen as an Act of Worship. Making it voluntary places it where it belongs. It is one of many things generous Catholics do -- not out of law, but out of love.

## Witnesses and Witnessing

### Witnessing in the Liturgy

Witnessing should be an integral part of the liturgy. As part of the community, the witness is someone whose daily life reflects the common joys and struggles of fellow parishioners. The best time for the witness presentation is immediately following the homily. The combined presentation of the homily and witness testimony should not last more than the usual time allotted for the homily.

### The Spiritual Benefits

These outweigh all else. This, after all, is the fundamental reason for all of the Church's work - to make spiritually mature Catholics that follow in the footsteps of Christ. Sharing of individual talent is a means to that end. Properly presented, teaching about Parish Stewardship will deepen people's faith and enable churches to deliver a message about ministry and sharing that follows the gospel call to build God's Kingdom.

### Answers to Witness Questions:

#### Why me?

Even though you may not be a public speaker, you are a fellow parishioner with a story to tell that others will respect and want to hear. That's why you've been asked to be a Witness Speaker.

#### What Shall I Talk About?

A good place to start is your own personal journey to Stewardship of your Talents; how you discerned them; why you decided to share them; where you decided to share them. Was it partly the answer to the question, "How do I express my gratitude to God's generosity?" Your own journey to generous Stewardship of Talent is the answer to the question, "What shall I talk about?"

#### How will I know if it is a good talk?

Make a rough draft. Get feedback from the person who asked you to be a Witness Speaker. Make a second draft and get more feedback. Ask to practice your final draft in the church. Remember - You wouldn't have been asked if they didn't think you were able to do a good job.

*For it is in  
giving that we  
receive;*

*St. Francis of Assisi*