

# Lay Witness Speaker Resources

## Suggestions for developing your presentation

- Write down and outline your thoughts. Use double spacing and large print.
- Try to keep your talk less than five minutes in duration.
- Actual stories and experiences work better than statistics.
- Mention how stewardship enables us to return, with deep and sincere appreciation, a portion of the gifts of time, talent, and treasure to God.
- Reference the 'Ask' statements on the pledge card (if using Archdiocese supplied pledge card).
- Know your parish's participation. Most parishes tend to achieve about a 28% participation rate. Our goal this year is to reach \_\_\_\_\_. Incorporate the importance of full parish participation into your talk.
- Speak from the heart –strive to deliver the talk in a sincere, enthusiastic, and friendly manner.
- Emphasize that Stewardship is planned, proportionate and sacrificial. The opportunity to make a pledge out of gratitude for their own blessings.
- Heartfelt and personal remarks by the witness is the most effective way of conveying the importance of the appeal. Remember that your words will make a difference.
- When giving your talk, be conscious of your appearance
- Practice, practice, practice! Rehearse your talk aloud in front of a mirror. Deliver it to your spouse, family or friend and ask for their critique.
- Remember that you need to speak very clearly and much more slowly than usual to give your listeners time to follow the process with you.
- In your talk, tell parishioners that you have pledged your support to the parish. This sign of leadership is an important way to provide an example of your personal Christian stewardship.
- Be confident, enthusiastic and emotional while speaking from your heart. The outcome you are seeking is 100% response.
- Conclude with a brief word mentioning how stewardship enables us to return, with deep and sincere appreciation, a portion of our gifts of time, talent, and treasure to God.
- Include a "thank you" in your talk.
- Your job isn't so much to teach or to explain –it's to move people to act.
- Enjoy the experience.

## Additional Resources to aid your Witness Speaker

### Difference between ACA and Stew:

<https://seattlearch.app.box.com/s/i24127dyc1dcbmwxt4cibwwjturxezvu/file/818488033685>

**Treasure Renewal comparison chart:**

<https://seattlearch.app.box.com/s/i24127dyc1dcbmwxt4cibwwjturxezvu/file/680081549990>

**Giving Planning Sheet (specifically 2<sup>nd</sup> page):**

<https://seattlearch.app.box.com/s/i24127dyc1dcbmwxt4cibwwjturxezvu/file/1286329840526>

**Bishop Schuster video on Stewardship – NEW! (approximately 90 seconds)**

<https://vimeo.com/826352735?share=copy>

**AB Etienne video on Stewardship: (approximately 6 min, 30 seconds)**

[Spirituality of Stewardship - Etienne USCCB Stewardship Message 2020 \(vimeo.com\)](https://vimeo.com/826352735?share=copy)