"AS EACH ONE HAS RECEIVED A GIFT, USE IT TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER AS GOOD STEWARDS OF GOD'S VARIED GRACE." (1 PETER 4:10)

The call to stewardship as a way of life is a very personal call that everyone must answer in their own way. Stewardship is expressed through prayer, participation and generosity.

Stewardship is also an expression of discipleship, with the power to change how we understand and live out our lives. Our role is to help all Christians understand this commitment and explore with them opportunities to live this commitment by using the gifts God has given them.

Two resources have been developed by the diocesan stewardship office to assist with parish stewardship renewal efforts. Below you will find two versions of a stewardship commitment form. To download and edit the form of your choosing, please visit the following links:

- Parish Stewardship Commitment Form <u>in English</u> and <u>in Spanish</u>
- Stair Steps of Giving Stewardship Form in English and in Spanish

Option 1: Parish Stewardship Renewal Weekend Commitment Form

Please customize your form to fit your parish needs. A sample form has been provided. To view and customize the form you will need Adobe Acrobat Reader. If you do not have Adobe Reader you can download it for free here. Insert the following information on your parish's commitment form:

- o **Parish image or logo** can be inserted in the upper, right corner of the form
- o **The date** for your parish stewardship renewal weekend
- o Parish name
- o **Pledge amounts**: Please feel free to customize pledge amounts. A few pledge ranges are included below as a guide to use in customizing these amounts.
- o **Parish ministries**: Highlight ministries you would like parishioners to learn more about and participate in.

Once you have inserted your parish information, please save the form. You are now ready to print or email your document and share it with parishioners.

Pledge Range Suggestions:

Range 1	Range 2	Range 3
\$150 per week	\$100 per week	\$75 per week
\$75 per week	\$50 per week	\$40 per week
\$50 per week	\$40 per week	\$30 per week
\$30 per week	\$25 per week	\$20 per week
\$15 per week	\$15 per week	\$10 per week
\$ Other	\$ Other	\$ Other

Option 2: Stair Steps to Giving Stewardship Form

A second form is offered within the parish stewardship renewal weekend resources titled The Stair Steps of Giving. This resource was adapted from materials produced by Matthew Kelly, author of several books including <u>The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic</u>. An excerpt is below from <u>The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic</u> from www.dynamiccatholic.com:

"Highly engaged Catholics have four things in common, the four signs of a Dynamic Catholic: 1. Prayer: Dynamic Catholics have a daily commitment to prayer. 2. Study: Dynamic Catholics are continuous learners. 3. Generosity: Dynamic Catholics are generous. 4. Evangelization: Dynamic Catholics invite others to grow spiritually by sharing the love of God with them."

"Every day God invites me to take one small step toward him. I often resist. Other days I am so enthusiastic and excited I want to run toward him with reckless abandon and make up for so many lost days. But God taps me on the shoulder and says, "Slow down, enjoy the journey—all I ask is for one small step each day."

"As human beings we have a great psychological need to know we are making progress, and so finding ways to measure progress is critical even in an area like spirituality, which is so difficult to measure. It is also critical to be mindful that the Four Signs are interrelated. For example, if you read five pages of a good Catholic book each day (Study), your prayer life would no doubt improve (Prayer), you

would be more likely to talk with others about the ideas you are reading about (Evangelization), and the more you know God and his Church the more likely you are to be generous with God and neighbor (Generosity)."

The Stair Steps of Giving resource takes the idea of "one small step" and applies it to Kelly's third step: generosity. What if parishioners were able to move just one small step in their regular giving to the parish? How could this one small step help the community not only maintain but grow in faith to share the gospel of Jesus Christ? How could this one small step encourage a deeper relationship with God?

The form can be edited to fit your parish needs including the option to add a parish logo or image in the upper, right corner for the form. The numbers on the steps can be customized to represent the current number of families giving in your church. We know of at least one parish in the Diocese of Knoxville who implemented a similar approach and saw an increase in pledges over time.



