



Stewardship: God's Call and Our Response

How-tos

1. How to foster an awareness of the spiritual roots of stewardship
 - Create a sense of hospitality and welcome for all—at liturgies, at social functions, at meetings. Everything else flows from the Christian spirit within the community.
 - Help ministry teams focus first on discovering and calling forth gifts, and then on filling needs. Promote prayer, spiritual formation, and faith sharing as ways to uncover spiritual strength and motives for ministry.
 - Remember that everybody has gifts: the young, the elderly, people with disabilities. There are no parish populations that are only on the receiving end of ministries.
 - Use *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, the pastoral letter from the U.S. Catholic Bishops, with discussion groups, ministries, or with a variety of parish organizations.
 - Encourage the formation of a stewardship planning committee and invite this group to educate the parish about the spiritual dimensions of using our gifts for God. Then initiate a "Time, Talent, and Treasure" stewardship program.
 - Consider cultivating a "Parish Garden" as a visible symbol of the parish's stewardship of God's creation. Donate the produce to the poor in the community.
 - Try to broaden everyone's horizons by bringing in a speaker on a challenging topic, such as, Stewardship and Justice. Open the program to other church communities in the area.
2. How to link discipleship and stewardship
 - Create a seasonal (Lent or Advent) theme of discipleship for the parish. Devote all educational efforts toward recognizing God's call and gifts among us. Encourage people to respond through a deeper relationship with God and through service.
 - Use a particular saint's feast day (St. Andrew, St. Francis of Assisi, or the parish patron) to focus on discipleship. Echo the theme in homilies, in parish bulletins, in reflections at committee meetings.
 - Use videos, such as : *Sister Thea: Her Own Story* <http://www.videoswithvalues.org/education/thea.html>, *Entertaining Angels: The Dorothy Day Story*, <http://www.videoswithvalues.org/family/entang.html> and *Pierre Toussaint (Saints in the Making)* <http://www.pauline.org/store/moreinfo/stsinthemaking.html>
3. How to link small Christian communities and stewardship
 - Encourage a discussion of practical ways in which small communities foster a sense of giftedness and a call to mission. Discuss ways that mission, stewardship, and action responses are interrelated. Ask how small Christian community members can set the pace for stewardship efforts in these areas.
 - Encourage participation in wider parish efforts as a way of calling forth the gifts of the small community members. Consider using the "Catholic Spiritual Gifts Inventory" in small communities. (See www.siena.org in Links and Resources: Web sites.)
4. How to link RENEW 2000 and stewardship
(For those parishes that have done or are doing RENEW 2000 or another parish renewal process)
 - Evaluate the effects of RENEW 2000 on parish life. Look at effects on ministries, participation in liturgies, Scripture study, or growth of small Christian communities.
 - Examine where and how participation in RENEW 2000 correlates with any increased use of time and talents by parishioners.
 - Build on the positive effects of RENEW 2000 to continue to call forth gifts, and widen the circle to include other members of the community.