



2025

ICSC Conference

Stewardship Networking Group

CONFERENCE PRAYER

Loving God,

We gather as pilgrims
on this stewardship journey;
united by the gift of life
and the seed of faith
planted in us at Baptism.

Our faith has grown throughout our lives
and its power directs us more urgently
than ever before.

Dios de amor,

Nos reunimos como peregrinos
en este camino de corresponsabilidad;
unidos por el don de la vida
y la semilla de la fe
sembrada en nosotros en el Bautismo.

Nuestra fe ha crecido a lo largo de nuestras vidas
y su poder nos guía con más urgencia
que nunca.

CONFERENCE PRAYER

It has been nourished by prayer,
the witness of others, the sacraments,
and most especially the Eucharist,
for which we are exceedingly grateful!

Send down your Spirit in these days
You have given us as blessings,
that we may listen attentively,
speak honestly and recognize the
gifts of those with whom we gather.

Se ha nutrido de la oración,
el testimonio de los demás, los sacramentos
y, muy especialmente, la Eucaristía,
por la cual estamos profundamente agradecidos.

Envía tu Espíritu en estos días
que nos has dado como bendiciones,
para que escuchemos atentamente,
hablemos con honestidad y reconozcamos
los dones de aquellos con quienes nos reunimos.

CONFERENCE PRAYER

May the Holy Spirit protect us,
guide our way,
and help us continue our journey
in unity, peace and with a renewed spirit.

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord.

Amen

Que el Espíritu Santo nos proteja,
guíe nuestro camino
y nos ayude a continuar nuestra jornada
en unidad, paz y con un espíritu renovado.

Te lo pedimos por Cristo, Nuestro Señor.

Amèn



Creating Active

Stewards in Your Parish

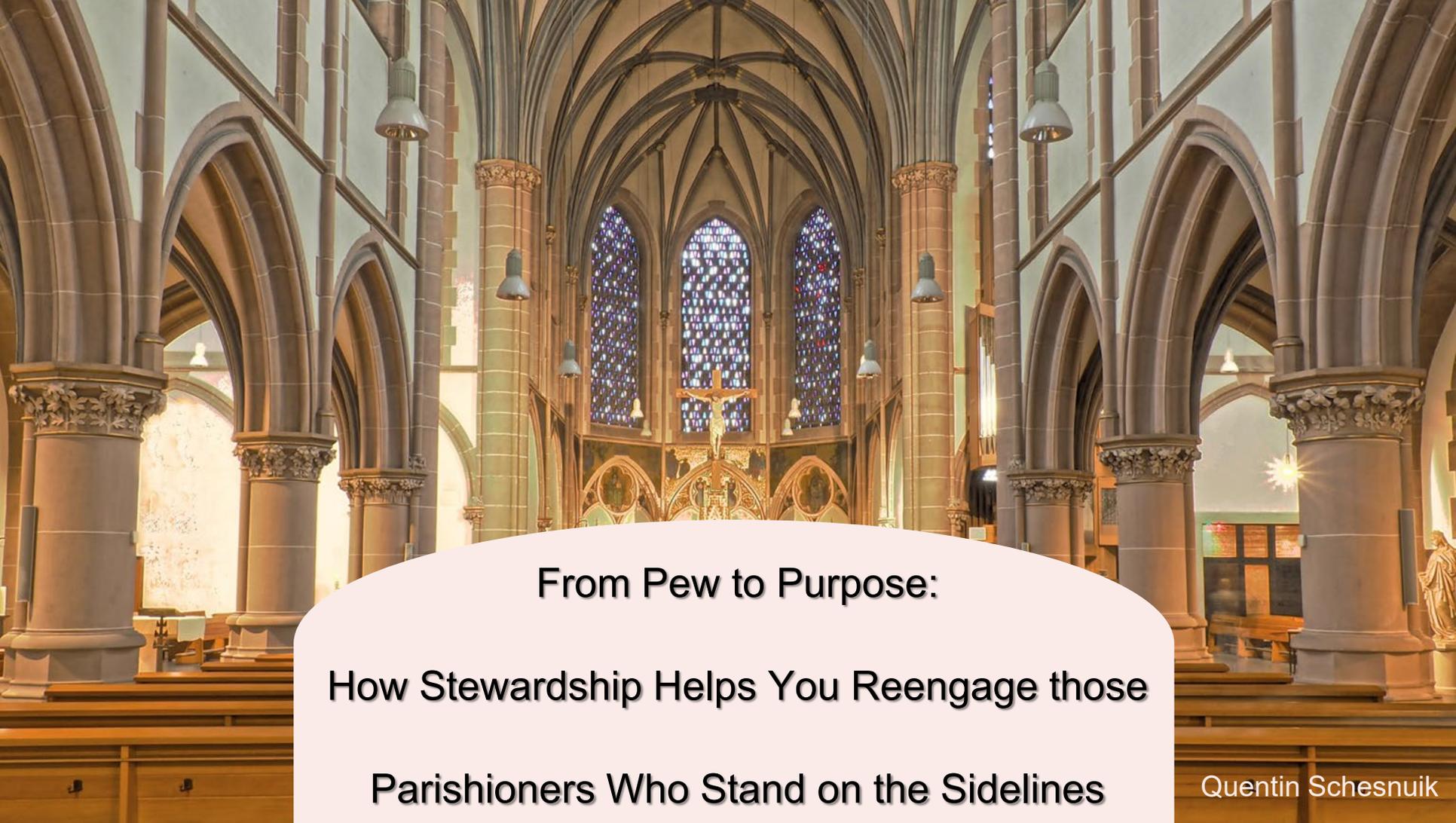
Tony Brandt, Chris Stewart



Casting Nets

7 Pillars

- Prayerful
- Invitational
- Hospitable
- Inspirational
- Sacramental
- Formational
- Missionful



From Pew to Purpose:

How Stewardship Helps You Reengage those

Parishioners Who Stand on the Sidelines

Quentin Schesnuik



Archdiocese of Toronto



OUR COMMUNITY

OFFICES & MINISTRIES

OUR FAITH

OUTREACH

CONTACT US



DONATE



THE SPIRITUALITY OF
STEWARDSHIP

CHARISMS

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

PARISH VITALITY

PARISH VITALITY ADDITIONAL
RESOURCES

[Reflections for Parish Bulletins](#) | [Stewardship Prayer Cards](#) | [Cardinal Collins' Pastoral Letter on Stewardship](#) | [Highlights](#) | [Social Media](#) | [Prayers of the Faithful](#) | [Bulletin Announcements](#) | [Discussion Questions](#) | [A Stewardship Examination of Conscience](#) | [Questions for Personal Reflection](#)



Archdiocese
of Toronto

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Stewardship Bulletin Reflections
Year A

Stewardship Bulletin Reflections
Year B

Stewardship Bulletin Reflections
Year C

33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time – World Day of the Poor

1st Reading: Malachi 4.1-2

2nd Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3.7-12

Gospel: Luke 21.5-19 - *The Destruction of the Temple and Signs of the End Times*

Contemplating Life and Death

Benjamin Franklin has been quoted to say that there are only two things certain in life: death and taxes. While much can be said about the latter, let us focus on the former, namely, death. Cardinal Collins in his *Pastoral Letter on Stewardship*⁷ asserts that “the thought of death is spiritually fruitful, as it forces each of us to consider our priorities.”

As we approach the end of the liturgical year, the Mass readings point toward Christ’s Second Coming and the end of our earthly life. Through the contemplation of our limited time on earth, we can ask ourselves if we are appropriately using our gifts to serve Christ in the poor and our neighbour. One great gift we can share is that of our time. Cardinal Collins says that, “we can use our time in this life to be selfish, or to be generous to others. The blessed used their time here to care for those in need.”

Two practical ways we can effectively and generously use our time is in prayer and active presence with our neighbour. It is primarily important to spend time in prayer, in order to begin to know, love and worship God and come to understand His love and mercy for us. Consequently, with the fire of God’s love fostered through our time in prayer, our time spent with others will be more fruitful, as it will now be God’s love within us reaching out to others. So as we journey with our eyes fixed heavenward, let us generously give our time to God and our parish community.

Summary

As the Mass readings point toward Christ’s Second Coming and the end of our earthly life, we should ask ourselves if we are appropriately using our gifts to serve Christ in the poor and our neighbour. One great gift we can share is that of our time. Cardinal Collins says that, “we can use our time in this life to be selfish, or to be generous to others. The blessed used their time here to care for those in need.”



**What is the
Parishioner
Time and Talent
Campaign Kit?**

Parish Ministry Fair Guide



Parish ministry fairs provide interested parishioners with the opportunity to learn more about the myriad of ways they can share their God-given time and talent with their parish community. A well-structured fair can also build relationships by creating conversational opportunities between interested people and those who are already serving. A well-done fair can reinvigorate your ministries.

Stewardship Committee Guide



This guide is designed to help you create the space to begin planning stewardship formation activities and events at your parish. Whether or not you wish to give the mandate of stewardship to your parish council, reorient an existing committee towards stewardship, or create a new stewardship committee, this guide will help.

Commitment Sunday Guide



This guide contains the practical resources (e.g. sign-up forms, etc.) you can adapt to invite people to become more active in your parish.

Parish Ministry Fair Templates and Forms

The following documents can be used by parishes to help them to plan a Parish Ministry Fair. They have been taken from "The Joy of Parish Events!" webinar which unpacked a real-world case study of how to plan a successful Parish Ministry Fair. (A special thank you to St. Mark's Parish in Stouffville for sharing the documents.) If you would like to watch a recording of the "The Joy of Parish Events!" webinar, it can be found by scrolling down to the Parish Vitality Webinar Series section below.

-  Catchy Ministry Descriptions [Download](#)
-  Ministry Display Board Examples (Pictures) [Download](#)
-  Fair Announcement Example [Download](#)
-  Ministry Fair Prize Draw Form [Download](#)
-  Ministry Fair Coordinators_Pre-Fair Planning Meeting Example [Download](#)
-  Ministry Fair Coordinators_Post-Fair Meeting Debrief Example [Download](#)
-  Ministry Fair_Ministry Needs Survey [Download](#)

Commitment Sunday Sign-up Templates and Forms (Customizable)



Stewardship - Generic one-pager [Download](#)



Stewardship - Bifold - For adults [Download](#)



Stewardship - Bifold - For children [Download](#)



Stewardship - Bifold - For youth [Download](#)



Stewardship - Trifold - For adults [Download](#)



Stewardship - Trifold - For children [Download](#)



Stewardship - Trifold - For youth [Download](#)



Parish Vitality Webinar Series

 by Archdiocese of Toronto and 1 other

Playlist • 21 videos • 668 views

Through the lens of stewardship, the Office of Formation for Discipleship has created a Parish Vitality Webinar Series. [...more](#)

 Play all



1



Voices Tuned for Praise

Office of Formation for Discipleship • 41 views • 4 months ago

2



Small Groups: Dynamic Power for the Parish

Office of Formation for Discipleship • 41 views • 5 months ago

3



Healing Ministries That Enhance Parish Vitality - Ministering to Children of...

Office of Formation for Discipleship • 76 views • 7 months ago

4



Building a Culture of Stewardship that Engages all Ages 2024

Office of Formation for Discipleship • 41 views • 1 year ago

5



A Hitchhiker's Guide to Eternity (RCIA) Webinar

Office of Formation for Discipleship • 77 views • 1 year ago



17. Amazing Videos on a Shoestring Budget

Pandemic closures have taught us we need to find new and creative ways to engage our parishioners. This webinar will teach insider secrets on how to create professional-looking videos "on the cheap". We will also unpack a unique storytelling model you can use to create compelling short videos for your website.

PRESENTERS: Mark Brosens, Communications Manager in PR and Communications, Ben Tabucan, Video Creator from Ben + Krys Films, and Quentin Schesnuik, Associate Director, Parish Vitality and Stewardship in the Office of Formation for Discipleship, Archdiocese of Toronto.



**10 Common
Pitfalls to Avoid
in Your Stewardship Planning**

Steve Homiack

**AVOID NOT
ARTICULATING THE
MISSION/VISION**

**“To glorify God by being a faithful steward of all that is entrusted to us. To have a positive influence on all who come in contact with
Chick-Fil-A”**

MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT OF



Mission Statement

To be America's best quick-service restaurant at winning and keeping customers.



Vision Statement

To glorify God by being a faithful steward of all that is entrusted to us. To have a positive influence on all who come in contact with Chick-fil-A.

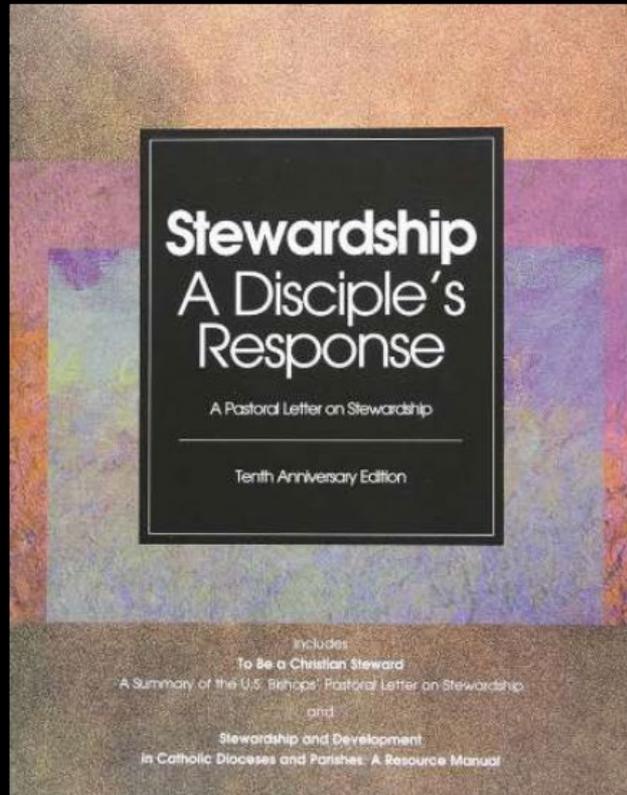
**AVOID COMMUNICATING ONLY
THROUGH MASS ANNOUNCEMENTS,
MAIL, AND THE BULLETIN**

IF YOU DON'T, IT WILL BE JUST LIKE THE 1990's

AVOID HANGING ON TO DATED TECHNOLOGY

- **I like my flip phone**
- **I love my checkbook**
- **I enjoy my video tapes**
- **I like using a paper map --- it's so easy to fold**

AVOID IGNORING THE PASTORAL LETTER ON STEWARDSHIP



Stewardship A Disciple's Response

A Pastoral Letter on Stewardship

Tenth Anniversary Edition

Includes

To Be a Christian Steward

A Summary of the U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Stewardship

and

Stewardship and Development

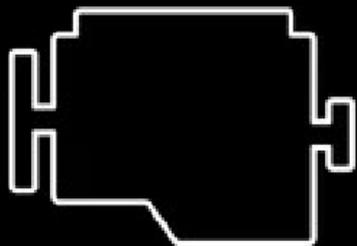
In Catholic Dioceses and Parishes: A Resource Manual

**AVOID FOCUSING ON TREASURE
AND NEVER BRING UP
STEWARDSHIP OF TIME OR TALENT**

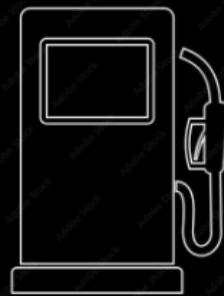
**AVOID TALKING ABOUT TREASURE
ONLY ONCE A YEAR AND NEVER
CONNECT IT TO THE MISSION**

**AVOID TALKING ABOUT TREASURE
ONLY ONCE A YEAR AND NEVER
CONNECT IT TO THE MISSION**

MISSION VS MONEY



ENGINE



FUEL



**AVOID NOT
STEWARDING YOUR
PARISHIONERS**

**AVOID NOT
STEWARDING YOUR
PARISHIONERS**

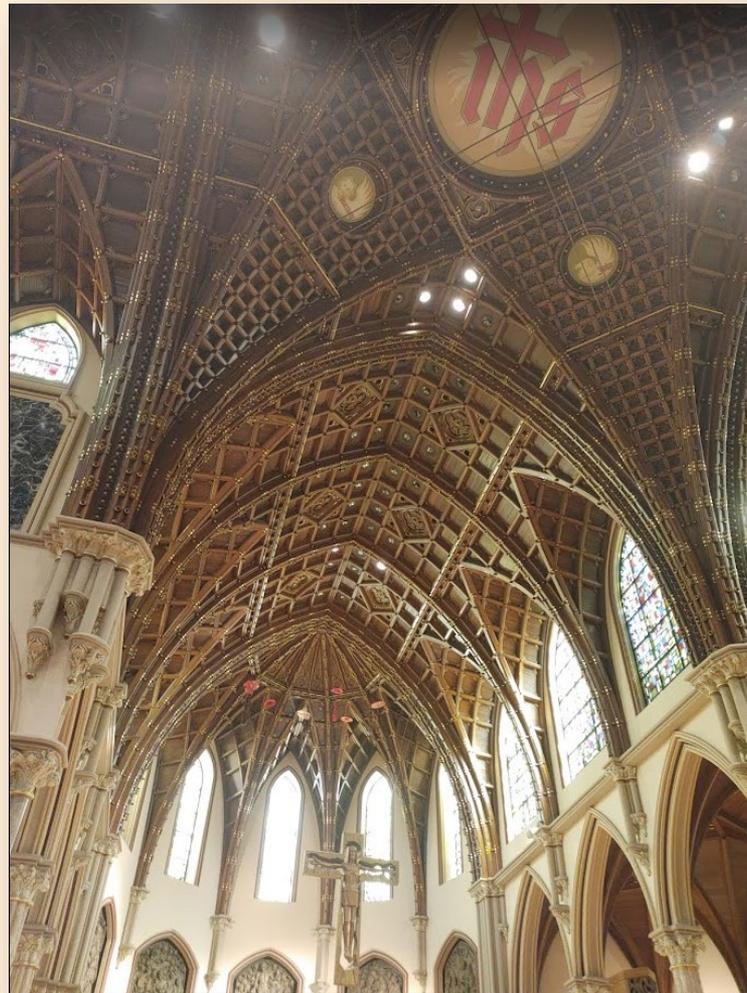
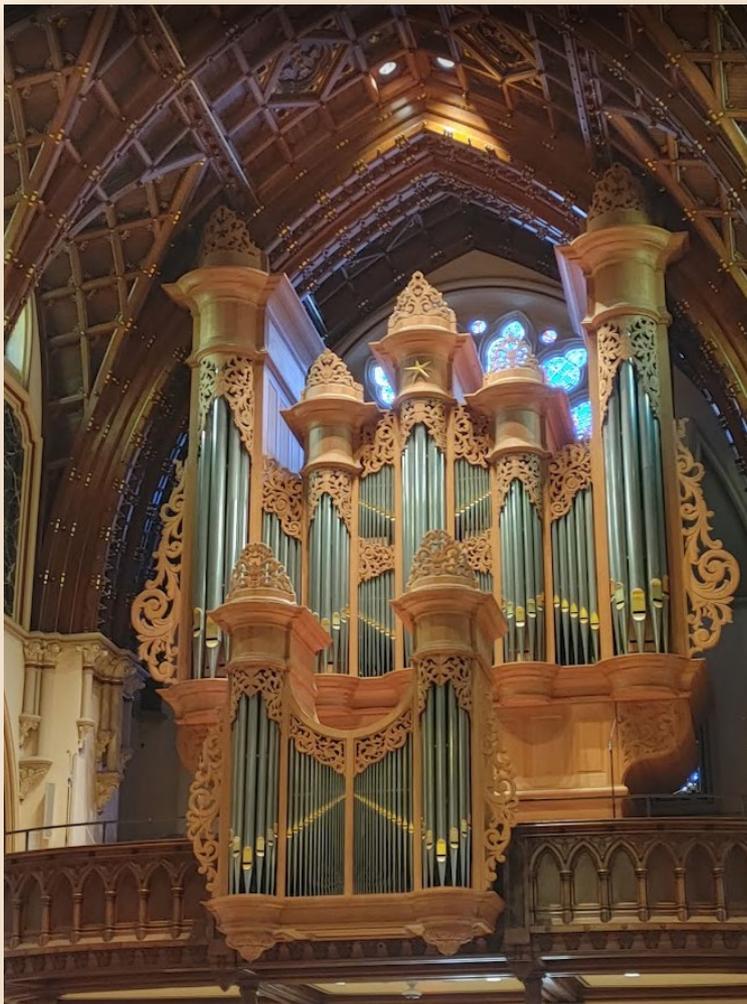
**AVOID IGNORING YOUR
DATABASE**

You can't avoid them all at once.

Start with one!

***Each one you avoid will help you
create a fully engaged church filled
with good stewards.***







Resurrecting Stewardship: A Year- long Discipleship Community Practice

Rev. James Henault, MS, David Smith

Discipleship

Time → **Prayer and Presence**
[What I do for myself]

Talent → **Faith in Action**
[What I do for others]

Treasure → **Generosity**
[How do I share the
Generosity given to me by God]

Discipleship

- Year-long program, executed annually.

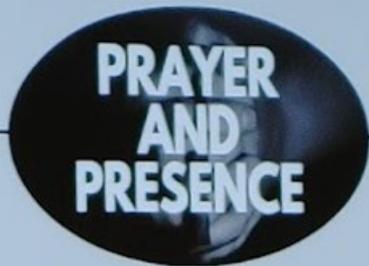
- **2024 - Implemented new Discipleship Program**

For all ages, covenants are made by preschoolers/elementary, middle schoolers, high schoolers, and adults.

- **Huge culture shift**



Annual Discipleship Timeline



JANUARY - MAY



AUGUST - SEPTEMBER



NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

Discipleship in Detail

Year Long Program to Support Discipleship

ST. ANN'S FAITH IN ACTION

Discipleship Phase 2



COVENANT WEEKEND
SEPTEMBER 6 & 7



FAITH IN ACTION



PRAYER AND PRESENCE



CHARITY

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

ALLOWS FOR MANY
OPPORTUNITIES TO
FOCUS ON DISCIPLESHIP
IN ALL OF ITS PHASES

LENTEN
PARISH MISSION,
STATIONS AND FISH
FRIES AND PENANCE
SERVICES

HOMILIES

DIRECTED TO LIVING THE
GOSPEL AS DISCIPLES IN
PRACTICAL WAYS

COMMUNITY BLESSINGS
OF PARISHIONERS AND
MINISTRIES, AT MASS, AS
THEY VENTURE OUT TO
HELP, TO LEARN, TO PRAY

Finance Philosophy

- We **do not focus on** parish financial needs or hold financial enhancement campaigns.
- Our Generosity covenant focuses on **all that we do to help our parish, our community, our families and other needs:** Only ask for an offertory pledge fulfilled in a recognizable way.





2025-2026 Prayer and Presence Covenant Card

Adult

High School

Middle School

Preschool & Elementary

Prayer Commitments:

I commit to pray:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weekend Mass | <input type="checkbox"/> Holy Day Masses | <input type="checkbox"/> Daily Mass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Healing Mass | <input type="checkbox"/> All Souls Mass | <input type="checkbox"/> Three Kings Mass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holy Week Participation | <input type="checkbox"/> Stations of the Cross | <input type="checkbox"/> Morning Prayer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evening Prayer | <input type="checkbox"/> Grace Before Meals | <input type="checkbox"/> Scripture Reading |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reconciliation | <input type="checkbox"/> Penance Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Adoration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Praying for Vocations | <input type="checkbox"/> Vocations Cross | <input type="checkbox"/> Bringing up the Gifts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communion at Home | <input type="checkbox"/> TV/Online/Radio Mass (By the Homebound) | <input type="checkbox"/> Novenas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rosary | <input type="checkbox"/> Parish Missions | <input type="checkbox"/> Day of Reflection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> La Salette Daily Reflections | <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Retreats | <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Reading |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Direction | <input type="checkbox"/> Columbarium Prayer | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Line |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer: Bulletin Names | <input type="checkbox"/> Anniversary Blessings | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer and Praise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text" value="Other"/> | | |

Presence Commitments

I commit to being present at or attend:

Community Fellowship

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Gala | <input type="checkbox"/> Bingo Night | <input type="checkbox"/> Card Games |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Party and Sing-Along | <input type="checkbox"/> Coffee and Donuts | <input type="checkbox"/> Cookies with Santa |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dueling Pianos | <input type="checkbox"/> Babbie Mason Concert | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Fun Nights |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Movie Night | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Pick-Up Dinners | <input type="checkbox"/> Lenten Fish Dinners |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International Festival | <input type="checkbox"/> Light Family Dinners | <input type="checkbox"/> Parish Festival |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Dinners | <input type="checkbox"/> Trivia Night | <input type="checkbox"/> F3 Workout Group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trunk or Treat | <input type="checkbox"/> Line Dancing | <input type="checkbox"/> Golf Tournaments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Knitters | <input type="checkbox"/> 50+ Rewards | <input type="checkbox"/> OWN (Singles Group) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (SENT) | <input type="checkbox"/> Widows Helping Others | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of Seniors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text" value="Other"/> | | |

Faith Formation

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Life Spirituality | <input type="checkbox"/> Dad's Group | <input type="checkbox"/> Mom's Group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sister Talk | <input type="checkbox"/> Faith Sharers Retreat | <input type="checkbox"/> Vessels of Grace |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Promise Keepers | <input type="checkbox"/> Thomas Merton Book | <input type="checkbox"/> Interfaith Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advent Evening of Reflection | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Confirmation Preparation | <input type="checkbox"/> Speakers Series |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Small Groups | <input type="checkbox"/> La Salette Laity Groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Studies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ponder (Sunday Readings) | <input type="checkbox"/> Baptismal Preparation | <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage Preparation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Catechist Training | <input type="checkbox"/> First Communion Parents Preparation | <input type="checkbox"/> OCIA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OCIA Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Partner: OCI | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Partner: First Communion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Partner: Confirmation | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Partner: La Belle Elementary | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Confirmation Sponsor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teen Confirmation Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmation Parents Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> Read Georgia Bulletin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Listen to Catholic Faith Formation Resources. (Online TV, Radio, Apps) | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text" value="Other"/> | |



GENEROSITY

Generosity

Covenant Weekend • December 6-7

Christmas Dinner & Sing Along • Wednesday, December 10

Generosity is the call to support the mission of the Church and those in need through financial giving, stewardship, and acts of charity. It is a response to God's blessings and an expression of trust in His provision. By sharing our resources we help sustain the Church's mission, serve those in need, and build a stronger parish community. Throughout the year, there are many ways to give, but during this phase, we take a focused step by prayerfully discerning how God is calling us to be generous while acknowledging that all comes from our Lord. The season of generosity culminates in the Christmas Dinner and Sing-Along, a joyful celebration of God's blessings and our shared mission.

This commitment is made on Covenant Weekend through a Covenant Card, a pledge to give with a grateful heart.

Generosity Online Covenant Cards (Available December 2025)

Adult

High School

Middle School

Preschool & Elementary



TEN outdated
ideas in
Church
Stewardship

Chris Kozlowski

Outdated Idea #1 Talk Stewardship once a year

Outdated Idea #2 The PFC will handle it...

Outdated Idea #3 Lean into Catholic Guilt

Outdated Idea #4 People *should* just give...

Outdated Idea #5 Offer the same plea year after year

Outdated Idea #6 Don't explain where the money goes

Outdated Idea #7 Don't worry about the youth...

Outdated Idea #8 Don't thank people

Outdated Idea #9 Show them the spreadsheets...

Outdated Idea #10 Only focus on treasure...



What Typically Happens

- Silent offertory music plays (if anything)
- Someone passes baskets/plates around (awkwardly)
- People put money in (or don't)
- The priest takes the bread and wine to the altar (almost unnoticed by the congregation)
- Mass continues (the moment passes)

The Result

- Transactional, not spiritual
- Practical, not formational
- Individual, not communal
- Rushed, not reverent

What's Missing

- Formation about what's happening
- Connection between the offering and our lives
- Invitation to participate in something sacred
- Understanding that this is where we practice sacrificial giving
- Recognition that financial giving is spiritual giving





Let's look at what your parish does with the money people give:

- When someone puts money in the Offertory basket, they're not just paying an expense. They're enabling the sacraments, spiritual formation, pastoral care, service, catechesis, the buildings.:
- When you give to support your parish, you're not just funding someone else's work. YOU are the work.
 - If the parish celebrates Mass, you're participating in that Mass—even if you're not physically present that day, your financial support made it possible.
 - If someone comes to confession and encounters Christ's forgiveness, your giving may have made that possible (through enabling the priest to be there, the church to be open, etc.).
 - If a child learns about Jesus in religious education, your contribution is part of that formation.
- You're not separate from the Church's mission. Your generosity IS part of the mission.



Formational vs. Transactional: The Shift We Need to Make

The Core Problem

- Most diocesan (and parish) fundraising approaches are transactional:
- "We need \$X"
- "Your parish goal is \$Y"
- "Please give by this date"
- "Thank you for your gift"

Instead, formation-based fundraising is centered on spiritual growth:

- "How is God calling you to grow in generosity this year?"
- "What might it mean to sacrificially support the Church's mission in your diocese?"
- "Join us in being witnesses to God's faithfulness"
- "Your giving is your participation in Christ's redemptive work"

The message: "We're inviting you into deeper spiritual participation."



The Language Shift

Here are some examples of how to shift language from transactional to formational:

- **Instead of:** "Our parish goal is \$50,000" Say: "We're inviting the parish to participate in [specific ministry]. This will require gifts at all levels. How is God calling you?"
- **Instead of:** "Please increase your giving by 5%" Say: "Last year, how did God provide for you? How might He be inviting you to trust Him more this year?"
- **Instead of:** "We need to meet our goal" Say: "Our mission is [specific]. To accomplish this, we need sacrificial giving from our community."
- **Instead of:** "Thank you for your contribution" Say: "Thank you for your participation in God's work through our parish/diocese"

Stewardship Rooted in the Mass



1

100% Participation

2

Multi-Generational

3

Bring the Basket Back

4

Tie in Witness

5

Stewardship Prayer

6

Move Beyond an Envelope

7

Thank Often

8

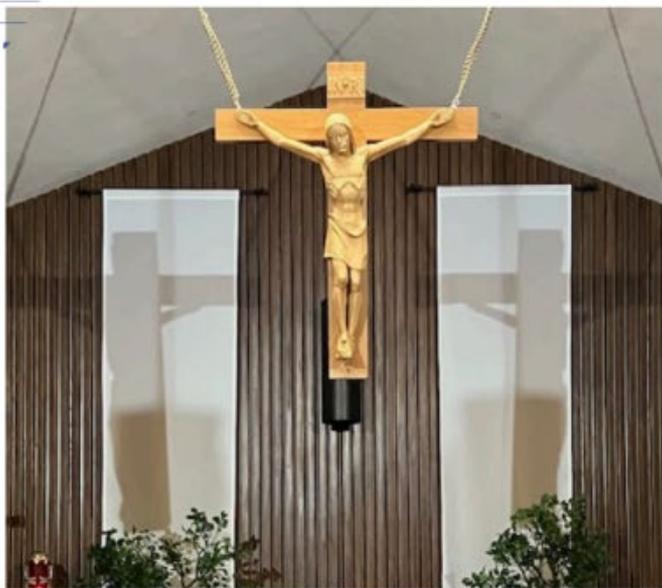
Personal over Digital/Written Word

9

Find a Storyteller

10

Move Beyond Sundays with Offering



Remember, the Stop Sign?

At the personal level, we identified three responses:

- Blow through it (ignore it)
- Roll through it (token effort)
- Full stop (true obedience)

Why?

- Most Catholics “roll through”- they put something in the basket, but not really making the STOP (thinking about what they are doing)
- We may not be creating space for reflection, formation, or intentional participation

How Parishes “Roll Through” the Offertory

Timing

- The Offertory music plays for 2-3 minutes
- A few volunteers quickly pass baskets
- Everyone's attention is on the music or their neighbor
- It's over before anyone has really thought about it

Language

- "Let's take up the collection"
- "If you're able to contribute, please do"
- "Thank you for your generosity"

(Notice no language on sacredness or spirituality)

Invitation

- There's rarely an explicit invitation to participate
- No explanation of what's happening
- No connection made to the sacrament being celebrated
- It just... happens

Visibility

- There's no sense of what the money will be used for
 - No report back on impact
 - It disappears
-



Before Mass

- The pastor or music director offers a brief reflection (1-2 minutes) on what the Offertory means
- A printed insert explains the theology- in the pews or often in the bulletin
- Announcements have mentioned what specific ministries this week's Offertory will support

At the Offertory

- Quiet, reverent music plays (not rushed)
- The priest invites: "Let us now bring our offerings forward—our gifts of money, our intentions, our very selves—to be joined with the bread and wine"
- Silence for personal reflection (30 seconds)
- People bring offerings forward (this could include written intentions, not just money)
- The priest takes time to bless the offerings, connecting them to the sacrifice

During the Homily:

- The priest connects the Gospel to generosity and participation
- He invites people: "This week, how is God calling you to trust Him more?"
- He shares briefly about the parish's current mission needs

After Mass:

- A brief announcement about where last week's Offertory went
- A visual or story showing the impact of giving
- Thank the parishioners for their ongoing support

Addressing the Stop Signs at Your Parish

Barrier 1: Lack of Time

- Solution: Build more time into the Offertory
- Don't rush people. Give them space to reflect.

Barrier 3: No Clear Invitation

- Solution: Make an explicit invitation during Mass
- "We invite you to bring your offerings forward"
- Not "please give," but "we invite you to participate"

Barrier 5: Invisible Results

- Solution: Regularly show impact
- "Last month's Offertory funded..."
- Share stories of lives changed through parish ministries

Barrier 2: Confusion About What's Happening

- Solution: Teach and explain
- Homily, bulletin inserts, small group sessions
- Help people understand the theology

Barrier 4: Reduced Participation (Some Feel Left Out)

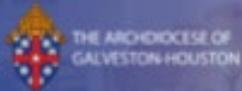
- Solution: Offer multiple ways to participate
- Not just money—intentions, pledges of service, etc.
- Make it clear that everyone is invited, regardless of financial capacity

Barrier 6: Disconnection from Mission

- Solution: Connect every appeal/request to the parish's core mission

BONUS SLIDE





THE ARCHDIOCESE OF
GALVESTON-HOUSTON

2026

PARISH ENGAGEMENT

Conference

Saturday
25 July 2026
Christ the Redeemer



That's all folks!

