

PARISH STEWARDSHIP TEAMS

Presentation to Stewardship Networking Group 5/14/26

Introductions – Name, Parish, Role, and if you have a stewardship team/status

- Collective wisdom and shared desire
 - Takes commitment, perseverance and trust in the Lord
 - It's not easy – counter-cultural
 - Jesus didn't say, "Go make fundraisers of all men" but DISCIPLES
 - What I plan to do is share best practices and principles, then hear from you since every parish is different, we can learn from one another
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- 1) This is the most important work your parish can focus on.
 - All encompassing, impacts every aspect of parish life

 - 2) Stewardship is aligned with the mission of Jesus Christ and His Church
 - Supported by our bishops (Bishops Pastoral Letter on Stewardship 1992)
 - PDF posted to archdiocesan website and available thru B&N / Amazon
 - How it started (began with focus on money → greater purpose)
 - Link to mission of Jesus, lives of purpose, grateful hearts, giving follows
 - CS Lewis quote – ignorant children making mudpies in the slum

 - 3) Your pastor needs to be on-board, if not leading this effort
 - He has greatest influence on the parish
 - Stewardship is single most effective way to:
 - ✓ change culture of giving
 - ✓ increase participation in liturgy and involvement in ministry
 - ✓ create a spirit of welcoming, hospitality and invitation
 - ✓ unite all parts of parish in one shared identity/purpose
 - In line with his own bishop (Arch Vasquez recognized for stewardship)

- 4) Recognize this is NOT a one-year program/initiative to fix cash-flow issues
 - Trust in the slow work of God – you are entering into the mystery
 - Playing the long game – it takes time/patience to change a culture
 - Pray with Holy Spirit to guide your work
 - Most joyful work you will do

- 5) Define the WHO, then the HOW
 - Identify people who are already cheerful givers
 - Invite them to be part of something important in the parish
 - From there, you can determine scope of work, roles, meeting frequency, how the team interacts with staff/parish leadership councils

- 6) Keep it simple, in rhythm with the life of your parish family
 - There are positive/challenging aspects of a team made of good stewards
 - Don't burnout team members and don't overwhelm parishioners
 - Lead with your parish's strength – start there
 - Consider liturgical seasons and circle of parish life
 - Liturgical season follows the life of Jesus; each has a purpose in calling your parishioners into a deeper relationship with God
 - Let the liturgical seasons inspire your stewardship work:
 - ✓ Forming small groups – Lent and Advent
 - ✓ Welcoming new parishioners – Christmas and Easter
 - Be intentional – in all you do – make it the air you breathe
 - (Handout: Grateful Disciples Plan)