

## **Example 3.20.**

# **Stewardship in Scripture References**

References to the concept of Stewardship can be found throughout the Old and New Testaments. The following may be used as bulletin blurbs or in announcements. Introductory comments can be added in an effort to prompt parishioners into personal prayer and reflection about the reading and the connection to Stewardship as it pertains to them in their daily lives. There are many, many more Biblical references that can be used as part of the foundation and development of a Stewardship program. Whenever possible, it is recommended that the reading reflect the message of the Sunday Gospel.

## **NEW TESTAMENT STEWARDSHIP REFERENCES:**

### **THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW**

Matthew: 6:3

“But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing. . . .”

Matthew 6:19-21

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.”

Matthew 6:31-33

“So do not worry and say, ‘What are we to eat?’ or ‘What are we to drink?’ or ‘What are we to wear?’ All these things the pagans seek. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom [of God] and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides.”

Matthew 7:2

“For as you judge, so will you be judged, and the measure with which you measure will be measured out to you.”

Matthew 25:14-30

Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:35

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me. . . .”

Matthew 25:36

“I was naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.”

**Example 3.20 (cont'd).**

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## **THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK**

Mark 10:21 “Go, sell what you have, and give to [the] poor and you will have treasure in heaven . . .”

Mark 10:43-44 “. . . whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all.”

Mark 12:44 “Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty.”

## **THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE**

Luke 3:11 “Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise.”

Luke 6:38 “Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.”

Luke 10:2 “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.”

Luke 12:33-34 “Sell your belongings and give alms. Provide moneybags for yourselves that do not wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.”

Luke 18: 22 “. . .sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have a treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

## **THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN**

John 6:27 “Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you.”

John 12:26 “Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.”

### ***Example 3.20 (cont'd).***

John 15:12-16 “This is my commandment: love one another as I love you . . . go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the

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Father in my name he may give you.”

John 20:21

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

John 21:15-17

“Jesus said, “Tend my sheep . . . Feed my sheep.”

## **THE SECOND LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS**

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

“Consider this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

## **THE FIRST LETTER OF PETER:**

1 Peter 4:9-11

“Be hospitable to one another without complaining. As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”

## **OLD TESTAMENT STEWARDSHIP REFERENCES:**

Genesis 28:22

“This stone that I have set up as a memorial stone shall be God’s abode. Of everything you give me I will faithfully return a tenth part to you.”

Leviticus 27:30

“All tithes of the land, whether in grain from the fields or in fruit from the trees belong to the Lord, as sacred to him.”

Numbers 15:21

“Throughout your generations you shall give a contribution to the Lord from your first batch of dough.”

Numbers 18:12

“I have also assigned to you all the best of the new oil and of the new wine and grain that they give it to the Lord as their first fruits.”

### ***Example 3.20 (cont’d).***

Deuteronomy 15:10

“When you give to him give freely and not with ill will; for the Lord, your God, will bless you for this in all your works and undertakings.”

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<u>Deuteronomy 14:22</u>	“Each year you shall tithe all the produce that grows in the field you have sown. . .”
<u>Deuteronomy 16:10</u>	“You shall keep the feast of Weeks in honor of the Lord, your God, and the measure of your own freewill offering shall be in proportion to the blessing the Lord, your God, has bestowed on you.”
<u>Deuteronomy 16:17</u>	“. . . but each of you with as much as he can give, in proportion to the blessings which the Lord, your God, has bestowed on you.”
<u>Deuteronomy 18:4</u>	“You shall also give him the first fruits of your grain and wine and oil, as well as the first fruits of the shearing of your flock. . .”
<u>Deuteronomy 26:2</u>	“. . . you shall take some first fruits of the various products of the soil which you harvest from the land which the Lord, your God, gives you, and putting them in a basket, you shall go to the place which the Lord, your God, chooses for the dwelling place of his name.”
<u>Tobit 4:8</u>	“Son, give alms in proportion to what you own. If you have great wealth, give alms out of your abundance; if you have but little, distribute even some of that. But do not hesitate to give alms . . .”
<u>Tobit 4:11</u>	“Alms are a worthy offering in the sight of the Most High for all who give them.”
<u>Tobit 4:16</u>	“Give to the hungry some of your bread, and to the naked some of your clothing. Whatever you have left over, give away as alms; and do not begrudge the alms you give.”
<u>Tobit 12:8</u>	“Prayer and fasting are good, but better than either is almsgiving accompanied by righteousness. A little with righteousness is better than abundance with wickedness. It is better to give alms than to store gold.”
<b><i>Example 3.20 (cont'd).</i></b>	
<u>Sirach 4:31</u>	“Let not your hand be open to receive and clenched when it is time to give.”
<u>Sirach 35:7</u>	“In generous spirit pay homage to the Lord, be not sparing of freewill gifts.”
<u>Sirach 35:8</u>	With each contribution show a cheerful countenance, and

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pay your tithe in a spirit of joy.”

Sirach 35:9

Give to the Most High as he has given to you, generously,  
according to your means.”

### **Example 3.21.**

## **Stewardship Reflections for Bulletins**

- How much time, other than an hour on Sunday, do you give back to God for the many blessings that you have received?
- We are all stewards – caretakers of the many gifts God has bestowed upon us. Our challenge as Christians is to make good use of those gifts.
- God gives each of us gifts and talents. We are stewards of those gifts and are called to share them with each other for the glory of God.
- How much you have has nothing to do with you. There are no packets on your birthday suit. We come into this world with nothing and we will leave it with nothing. We are called to recognize that all we possess is a gift from God.
- You are just one person, but you are important to God and to God's work. Be faithful as you give of your time, talent, and treasure.
- Giving of our time, talent and treasure is not about giving until it hurts. Rather, it is about giving until you feel good about what you have given.
- Stewardship involves a change of heart, embodied not just in a single action, nor even a series of actions, but in one's entire life.
- As Catholics, we are not to focus only on ourselves, but are called by our baptism to reach out and share our time, talent and with our brothers and sisters.
- "Wherever your treasure lies, there your heart will be." (Luke 12:34) What is your treasure? How about your friends, your family, your faith?
- Stewardship is a way of thanking God for all of the Lord's blessings by returning to God a portion of the time, talent and treasure we have received.
- God has taught us that you cannot love without giving. God's most precious gift to us was his son, Jesus. What gifts can YOU share that will show the measure of your love to God?
- Stewardship opens an avenue of thought that allows us to give, "With no strings attached," and without questioning what we will get in return.

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## ***Example 3.22.***

### **Prayer of the Faithful for a Four Week Stewardship Renewal**

#### **Week #1**

That a deeper faith is realized by the members of (name of parish) who, out of gratitude for God's abundant gifts, share their talents with others, we pray to the Lord...

#### **Week #2**

For all members of (name of parish) who, through their Stewardship of time, talent, and treasure, are eager to share their gifts with their parish and diocese, that their faith is deepened and their lives become further enriched, we pray to the Lord...

#### **Week #3**

For all members of (name of parish), that through our Stewardship of time and talent and service to God on earth, we will realize greater personal and community faith we pray to the Lord...

#### **Week #4**

For all (name of parish) parishioners, that our Stewardship of treasure to our parish and diocese will be an expression of gratitude for what God has given to us, we pray to the Lord...

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### **Example 3.23.**

#### **Prayer of the Faithful for the Parish Family**

Lord, you are the giver of every gift, including the most precious and holy gift of your son, Jesus Christ. Help us to remember how important it is for us to also be a generous giver of gifts, so that we can carry out Christ's mission for His Church on earth, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, instill in our heart a spirit of charity and compassion. Help us to be open to ways that can make a difference in our parish and community, by being generous with our abilities and treasure, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, grant us the ability to honestly evaluate our lifestyle that it might reflect a desire to walk closer with you, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, help us to wisely use the gifts you've entrusted us to steward, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, give our parish family the desire to do your will, giving generously of ourselves and our gifts for the mission of the Church, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, we offer up a prayer of thanksgiving for the abundance of treasure and abilities with which you have blessed us. Give us the desire to joyfully share our gifts for the good of our Catholic community, we pray to the Lord.

Lord make us trustworthy stewards of your abundant blessings. Show us ways that will enable us to fully embrace your teachings of charity, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, help us to have the courage to be good stewards of God's many blessings, we pray to the Lord.

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## **Example 3.24.**

### **Prayer of the Faithful Corresponding to the Months of the Year**

#### **January**

May we resolve during this year to share more generously than ever our time, talents, and treasure with our parish community and others...We pray to the Lord.

#### **February**

That our actions will continue to build up our parish community as we live our call to be good stewards of God's many gifts...We pray to the Lord.

#### **March**

During this season of Lent, may we open our hearts to the needs of the poor and oppressed...We pray to the Lord.

#### **April**

That our actions will demonstrate our gratitude to God for the gift of salvation and eternal life...We pray to the Lord.

#### **May**

May we follow the example of the Blessed Mother and open our hearts to follow the message of God without measuring the personal cost...We pray to the Lord.

#### **June**

May we become better stewards of our time, especially the time that we spend with God...We pray to the Lord.

#### **July**

May we open our hearts to return to God, the first fruits –giving from our substance rather than our surplus...We pray to the Lord.

#### **August**

That we may always seek to see the face of God in all people we encounter...We pray to the Lord.

#### **September**

May we always remember – “all that we are” and “all that we have” are gifts from God...We pray to the Lord.

#### **October**

That all members of our parish community will be united in our common faith journey...We pray to the Lord.

#### **November**

During this season of giving thanks, may we always remember that God is the source of all the blessings in our lives...We pray to the Lord.

#### **December**

As we prepare during this season of Advent to receive God's greatest gift, His son, may we reflect on our need to share with others...We pray to the Lord.

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### **Example 3.25.**

#### **Prayer of the Faithful Focusing on People as Stewards**

That as conscious stewards, we may open our minds and hearts to hear God's call as we prepare for our upcoming Stewardship renewal, we pray to the Lord...

That as aware stewards, we will reflect upon what it means to be the hands of Christ as we begin our Stewardship renewal, we pray to the Lord...

That as gifted stewards, we may use and share our God-given gifts in loving service to help build God's kingdom, we pray to the Lord...

That as committed stewards, we may receive the gift of the Eucharist to help us move from faith to action as the hands of Christ, we pray to the Lord...

That as the hands of Christ, we may have the perseverance to follow Jesus and his teachings in all aspects of our lives, we pray to the Lord...

That all of us as Christian stewards may live a life that gives witness to the fact that we are the hands of Christ, we pray to the Lord...

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### **Example 3.26.**

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### **Prayer of the Faithful Focusing on the Elements in *Stewardship – A Disciple’s Response***

May our loving Creator and Giver of all good gifts, bless our parish, strengthen our faith, and grant us the spirit of Christian Stewardship so we may give generously of our time, talent, and treasure to spread Your Kingdom here in our parish. For this, we pray to the Lord.

May the gifts, talents, and abilities given to each of us by our Lord enable us more effectively to carry out the mission of the parish. For this, we pray to the Lord.

That we may take time to enjoy God’s gifts to us, appreciate them, and share them with others. For this, we pray to the Lord.

That we may remember to be grateful to God for all of our successes and accomplishments, for without Him we could do nothing. For this, we pray to the Lord.

For all those who so generously support the work of our parish and the greater Church, that they may know the joy God promised to those who do His work. For this, we pray to the Lord.

*Used with permission from the Diocese of Winona, Minnesota*

### ***Example 3.27.***

### **Prayer of the Faithful Compatible with the**

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## **Six Themes of Stewardship used in *Sunday Homilies – Forming Communities in the Spirit of Stewardship***

### **Theme I**

For the human family all over the world. May we grow as nations, peoples, and communities in the likeness of God, recognizing the preciousness of life and sharing all our gifts in love. Let us pray to the Lord.

### **Theme II**

For the Church in every age. May the members of the Body of Christ affirm, acknowledge and strengthen each other as gift and then proclaim good news by generously sharing the Gift of God with the world. Let us pray to the Lord.

### **Theme III**

For the members of our parish and our community. May we see in one another and in our own lives the blessings and gifts that God has showered upon us. May we live grateful lives. Let us pray to the Lord.

### **Theme IV**

For all the broken-hearted, the poor, the oppressed, and those forgotten. May we reveal the love of God in our hearts by our generosity to the poor and our dedication to justice. Let us pray to the Lord.

### **Theme V**

For the Body of Christ, especially among our parish community. May we grow our gifts for the sake of the Gospel through our generous participation in the life and ministry of the Church. Let us pray to the Lord.

### **Theme VI**

For the conversion of heart among all the people of God. May the members of Christ's Body continuously grow into gifted and generous stewards of life emptying themselves for the sake of the Kingdom. Let us pray to the Lord.

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## **Example 3.28.**

### **Lay Witness Talk by an Individual**

Good morning. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. Fr. \_\_\_\_\_ asked me to speak to you a little bit this morning about Stewardship in my life. I've been a member of Parish Name for \_\_\_\_\_ years. I was married right here at this altar \_\_\_\_\_ years ago to my wonderful husband, Name and we now have \_\_\_\_\_ beautiful children, Name, who is \_\_\_\_\_ years old, and Name, who is in Xth grade. *(Possibly provide some appropriate information about the children or family life such as...)* Name was baptized here, and made her 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion here this past Month.

Here at Parish Name *(Provide information about involvement in the parish such as...)* I am a Lector/Commentator, I'm currently a member of our Parish Council, and am also a member of the Choir. My hope is to also become a Eucharistic Minister in the near future.

Stewardship, to me, is about praise and thanksgiving. We respond with these words every time we celebrate the Eucharist, "It is right to give Him thanks and praise." I consistently offer prayers of thanks. It can be for something as simple as getting out of the house on time. Getting that extra load of laundry done. Waking up to a fresh pot of coffee (I have to give thanks to my husband for that one, too). I have some very big things to be grateful for as well.

*(Share a personal story of experiencing a life of Stewardship such as...)* My family has gone through some very hard times over the last few years, with job changes, job losses, relocations, and more, but I never wondered where God was through any of it. I just knew there was a reason for *every single thing* we went through. At one of our darkest points, we were actually in a situation where, in a matter of days, we'd have no place to live. We were going to move in with my parents until we could figure something out – but at that time, my sister had just given birth to her baby prematurely, and she was living with my parents so she would have extra help. We'd be staying in the basement...it was the only space left.

Two days before we were moving, I couldn't bear it any more. I literally fell down on my knees crying and begged God, "Please soften someone's heart, Lord. Touch someone and help them help us. I don't know how, I just know it has to happen through YOU, because we can't help ourselves right now." The next day distant cousin called me who heard about what we were going through. She had moved out of state, but her house was still for sale near to us. She took it off the market and gave us a home. When we had nothing, we paid nothing. When we had a little, we paid a little. She told us not to worry and we could start to pay her rent when we were back on our feet. How do you thank someone for a gift like that? We still haven't figured out how to truly thank her, but we do give thanks to God every day for answering our prayers in our time of need.

## **Example 3.28(cont'd).**

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For of the last 10 years, my family and I have moved around quite a bit – 7 times in those 10 years. It seemed like every time we settled in and picked a parish, we were on the move again. I wanted to get more involved in the church, but could never find a place that felt like home.

When we ended up moving back to the area I was thrilled to be home again, not only near my family, but back in my church.

As I attended Mass each Sunday, I could feel myself being called, but didn't know to what. So I prayed. I knew that when the time was right, the Holy Spirit would move me. After a few months, Fr. \_\_\_\_\_ announced that Parish Council elections were the next week, and I knew that is what God wanted me to do. I then also chose to participate in the choir.

I did have some doubts...how was I going to find the time to attend meetings, choir rehearsals, and participate on Parish Council...all with a job, two little kids, and hungry husband? Well, the Holy Spirit had everything worked out. My husband is not only accepting of my involvement, but very supportive. My kids understand that there are meetings and functions I go to for the church, and I believe that has made them more curious about our faith. There are times when I've had such a long day; the last thing I feel like doing is going to a meeting. But I honor the commitment I made; I go; and find myself renewed in mind and spirit afterward, and again give thanks to God that I made the decision to be an active part of this parish.

Going to church and being a part of a faith community is not only about praying. It is about praising. About joy, and glory, and celebration. I have noticed as I've gotten more involved in the church that the Holy Spirit stirs in me with more and more frequency. I am moved to tears by the words in the prayers I've recited since I was a child. Their meaning now reaches me in a whole new way. Once I started giving more of myself, I found I had more of myself to give.

Last week my husband and I celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. While we were at dinner, we were talking about how difficult things had been, and how funny we would end up right back here where we started. But because of all the hardship, we are able to appreciate how truly wonderful everything is now. He has a job he loves, and an employer that loves him. Our kids are making friends and spending more time with their extended family than they ever have before. Our marriage, our family, and our lives are 100% better than they were a year ago. And I thank God every day for letting us take that difficult journey that brought us to where we are today.

So that's my story, at least part of it. If you have any questions about ministries or Stewardship, I'll be here after Mass and would be glad to talk to you. I pray every day for all of you and your families, that the Holy Spirit will move you, and you will know the joy and fulfillment of giving that I now know.

**Example 3.29.**

**Lay Witness Talk by a Couple**

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(Give general personal information such as...)

Husband

- Introduce ourselves, length of time in the community
- We have been Catholic our whole life – all schooling... grade school, HS, and college
- Describe numbers, ages, and general information about children
- Our Ministries at St. \_\_\_\_\_ have been – (*List all areas of involvement*)

(Share a personal story of experiencing a life of Stewardship such as...)

When our parish leadership started talking about Stewardship we sensed a good deal of resistance. Many people had only heard the word “Stewardship” used in the same sentence as “money”. However, we had never been exposed to it in that way.

To us, Stewardship has always meant, “What was I doing with God’s gifts,? **and** How was I responding to the Call to Discipleship?”

And, since I never really had much money, I had always looked at my time and the little talent I have, as the things I would give back to God.

My spiritual development was taking shape in the 70’s and one of the popular songs of the time, that struck a chord (excuse the pun) with me, was from Godspell – All Good Gifts. The refrain was: “All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above... So thank the Lord, thank the Lord for all his love.” This, along with my mother’s constant reminders on the same subject, would impress upon me that all that I had, all that I possessed, was a gift from God.

Wife

Many times we think we have God’s will figured out, when suddenly He throws us a curve, like making it clear to me that the path I had pursued as a member of a religious community for 9 yrs. was not where my discipleship was to be lived out. Grateful for all I had learned and open to what would be next, I moved on and discovered the “new” gift he had for me was my beloved husband. We knew that finding each other could NEVER have happened except by God’s grace.

As we matured, married and started acquiring “things”, we could never get away from the reality that our lives were filled with blessings from “heaven above”:

Husband

- as our children grew into terrific adults, we knew that we could not take a whole lot of credit for **that**.
- as my wife and I grew more in love each year of our 33 yr. marriage, we knew we could not take full credit for **that**
- as each job I acquired was supplying my family’s physical needs, I could not take full credit for **them**.

Wife

The first 10 years of our marriage were rocked by low income jobs, job changes, unemployment and, for a time, living on food stamps. There were health issues, financial insecurity, and flooded basements.... lots of flooded basements, and all the usual concerns of a young growing family.

We were strengthened by the gift of knowing that God would provide, and by the support of family and kind members of our church and neighborhood community who brought Christmas gifts for our children and sent money orders signed only “friends in Christ”.

## **Example 3.29 (cont’d).**

One day we found a pkg. of lemonade mix and a can of Spaghettios from a local convenience store at our front door – we think, a gift from a neighbor child who heard of our plight.

In our walk with the Lord we often found ourselves apprehensive of what God would ask next, as a result of all He had given us. He taught us to replace anxiety with expectancy. My husband often prayed, when interviewing for jobs, “This, or something better, Lord.”

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Our life continued with wonderful trips provided by the new job, struggles, hardships, the joys and heartache of raising our children, caring for & losing to death beloved family members.

We have learned to rely on our loving God in good times and bad and that all His gifts bring good into our lives.

Husband

- as we were able to purchase a comfortable home (**with no basement**), in a peaceful setting, we knew that we did not find **that** on our own.
- and finally, when we found such an open, vibrant and welcoming parish as we walked through the front doors at St. \_\_\_\_\_, we knew this was another one of God's blessing "sent from heaven above". So, as the song goes, "I thank the Lord for all his love."
- We do this by giving our time to St. \_\_\_\_\_ and other worthwhile causes or ministries. We use our talent which, for me, is still hard to determine.
- We give of our resources, so that ministries can be started or maintained.

But, HOW do we determine how much of our time, talent and resources to give? Well I guess it's mainly through experience. There was a point in my Stewardship journey that I couldn't say "no" and I got burned out. I was so burned out that I quit everything and even stopped attending church. Then, slowly, I re-entered the church community, and I now listen to that little voice in the back of my head that helps me find a sense of balance - between service and my chosen vocation of being a good and faithful father and husband.

Wife

It was in the time we had the least – when we were both unemployed, with a 6 yr. old and 2 yr. old, and on food stamps - that we learned to give generously of our treasure. When someone sent us \$15, we gave \$1.50 on Sunday. When we received \$150, we gave \$15. We only had what was given to us to give. We never forgot those times and God taught us to give from a grateful heart. We did not learn a formula for giving and we do not currently tithe, but we gratefully increase our giving as the Lord inspires us, and we seek ways to help and support others.

When we found ourselves in this area and then at St. \_\_\_\_\_ parish we were so humbled and filled with gratitude – not only for our home and parish community but because we were able to envision how every step of the way in our daily lives, a generous and faithful God had opened our hearts and minds to receive his love and goodness, and He was still teaching us to make a return in love for His "good gifts".

We have the comfort and experience of knowing that God will not be outdone in generosity! And we have learned to pray a simple Stewardship prayer: "Please keep us in your love, guide us on your path – Thanks, for all that has been; Yes, to all that lies ahead."

## **Example 3.30.**

### **Stewardship Message from Bishop Richard G. Lennon**

*(printed version of message that is also provided on CD)*

As your parish embraces this formation process in stewardship as a way of life, I want to affirm the importance of stewardship within our Catholic faith. Stewardship as a way of life and discipleship is so central to our Church life that I established a diocesan office to support and develop it.

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Good and faithful stewards recognize that God is the origin of life, the giver of all we have, are, and will be. As Catholics we believe that all we have in our lives has been entrusted to us by God. Notice, I said “entrusted” not “given”. What I mean by this is that our relationships, our work, our time, our possessions, and our very life itself, are all given to us by God not to become our possessions, but to be our means for life and instruments for building the Kingdom on earth. Good stewards recognize that we are responsible to God for the manner in which we use all that he has entrusted to us.

Every bit of our personal time, our unique talent, and our hard-earned treasure can be understood as a seed planted within our lives. By faith and grace, good stewards grow these precious seedlings into maturity – making the most of them for the love of God. We nurture our own gifts and those of others through loving within both our families and the Church. In imitation of God Himself, we spend our lives sharing and giving away that which has been entrusted to us by the Lord. Living generous lives as stewards of God’s gifts enables us to share the presence and power of God with others by doing justice, repairing the earth, and giving glory to God.

Put more simply and profoundly in the words of St. Paul, living lives as stewards means to constantly work at living the life God intended us to live - to live a life of holiness. As with anything important, stewardship doesn’t happen overnight - it is a lifelong journey of growth that we are called to walk together.

Stewardship requires formation. For that reason, many excellent resources and assistance will be provided you in the weeks and months ahead to help you and your fellow parishioners achieve deeper levels of participation in the Church’s mission. Through preaching, witnessing, ministry fairs, and other activities you will be encouraged to see life from a new perspective. Your time, talent, and treasure can now be seen, no longer as possessions and blessings for you – but as God’s precious commodities entrusted to you for the benefit of the Church and the world.

Seeing oneself as a blessed steward entrusted by God with gifts, we can be nothing but grateful. The Eucharist is the most powerful way for anyone who is grateful to give thanks to God. Make the celebration of Mass the centerpiece of your parish and your lives as God’s stewards. When you are asked in the weeks ahead to pledge your time, talent, and treasure for the coming year, I hope you will take a step further and re-dedicate your whole life to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to a fuller life in the Church. Return to God all that is God’s – your faith, hope and love. Thank you for your attention and for who you are and for all you do for the Lord within the Church.

# Parish Stewardship Education and Formation

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## **Example 3.31.**

### **Leadership Retreat Outline**

#### *Parish Letterhead*

**Use as a Bulletin insert (if retreat is opened to the entire parish community)**

Please consider joining us for our first Parish Stewardship retreat

*Insert day and date, 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.*

*Insert day and date, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.*

Held in the *Name of Location*

This retreat will be composed of four sessions, which will be as follows:

#### **Insert day of the week for DAY 1**

- 6:30 p.m. Dinner
- 7:15 p.m. Session One - "God Is Our Father"
  - Overview of the Retreat
  - Talk - "God Is Our Father"
- 7:45 p.m. · Reflection Time
- 8:15 p.m. · Small Group Discussions
- 8:45 p.m. Night Prayer
- 9:00 p.m. Dismissal for the Evening

#### **Insert day of the week for DAY 2**

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- 8:45 a.m. Continental Breakfast
- 9:15 a.m. Session Two - "God Calls and Equips His Disciples"
  - Talk
- 9:45 a.m. · Reflection Time
- 10:15 a.m. · Small Group Discussions
- 10:45 a.m. Session Three - "To Be A Christian Steward"
  - Talk
- 11:15 a.m. · Reflection Time
- 11:45 a.m. · Small Group Discussions/Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. Session Four - "Stewards of the Church"
  - Talk
- 1:00 p.m. · Reflection Time
- 1:30 p.m. · General Large Group Discussion
- 1:50 p.m. Closing – Commissioning
- 2:00 p.m. Dismissal

*"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service, but the same Lord; there are different workings, but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation the Spirit is given for some benefit." 1 Corinthians 12:4-7*

RSVP to the Parish Office at *phone number* by *date*

*Used with permission by Catholic Stewardship Consultants*

## **Example 3.32.**

# Parish Stewardship Education and Formation

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## Leadership Retreat Invitation

### *Parish Letterhead*

***Use as a letter for all parish leaders***

Date

<First and Last Name>

<Street Address>

<City, State, ZIP>

Dear <Name>,

I would like you to attend our upcoming Parish Retreat along with other leaders at *Parish Name* such as the members of the Pastoral Council, Finance Council, Stewardship Committee, and the leaders of our parish ministries.

Parish Retreat

*Insert day and date, 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.*

*Insert day and date, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.*

Held in the *Name of Location*

This spiritual retreat is a time for all our parish leaders to draw aside and spend time with God and with one another. It is an opportunity to reflect on the future direction of *Parish Name* and your role as a parish leader. Your spouse is also invited to attend.

The retreat will be lead by *Name*, an excellent speaker who conducts similar retreats at parishes around the *diocese/country*. In addition to *Name's* talks, there will be time for personal reflection and small group discussions.

The retreat will begin with dinner on *Day, Date* – 6:30 p.m. It will continue on *Day, Date*, with Mass at 8:00 a.m., and the retreat will end about 2:00 p.m. Breakfast and lunch will be included, and there is no cost to attend.

To confirm your attendance, or to ask any questions, please phone the parish office at *phone number*. This retreat will be a time of spiritual enrichment for all our leaders who attend, and I look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Pastor's Name*

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**Example 3.33.**

# *Parish Stewardship Education and Formation*

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## **Leadership Retreat Follow-Up Thank You**

### *Parish Letterhead*

*Date*

<First and Last Name>

<Street Address>

<City, State, ZIP>

Dear <Name>,

Thank you for participating in our recent Stewardship Retreat. We truly appreciate your taking the time from your lives to pray and reflect on Stewardship with us. As (*Parish Name*) works to develop Stewardship as process of parish life, the gifts that each of you have to offer will continue to be vital to our parish.

Hopefully you have learned that Stewardship isn't a program, but a way of life for each of us to use God's gifts wisely to the best of our ability and for the good of the Church.

Thank you again and may God Bless you and your family abundantly.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor's Name*

*Stewardship Chair's Name*

# Parish Stewardship Education and Formation

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## **Example 3.34.**

### Ministry Coordinator's Leadership Workshop Invitation

## **our hearts are burning**

A leadership meeting for ministry coordinators

You, as a person of leadership at

**parish name,**

Are encouraged to attend one of our  
annual Ministry Coordinators' Workshops.

Take a look at your calendar,  
decide which one of the following dates would work  
best for you, and call or email the parish office to  
register by **date**

**List options of dates  
of workshops here**

**Give location  
information here**



Everyone's involvement and input is important.

***Join us for this walk to Emmaus***

*Used with permission from St. Anne Catholic Church, Columbus, Georgia*

## **Example 3.35.**

# *Parish Stewardship Education and Formation*

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## **Ministry Coordinator's Leadership Workshop Objectives and Agenda**

### **Ministry Coordinator's Leadership Workshop Objectives**

**Insert Dates  
of workshops here**

Theme:  
"Our Hearts Are Burning" Luke 24:32

#### **Objectives:**

- To deepen coordinators' understanding of the message that their role is not just a task oriented one, but truly a ministry of developing others.
- To recognize coordinators & express appreciation for their efforts.
- To provide opportunity for coordinators to come together & discuss common issues & to build a network of support.
- To clearly communicate roles & expectations of ministry coordinators at the parish.
- To promote theological understanding of Stewardship & enrich the understanding of coordinators' roles in fostering that theological message to those involved in their ministries.
- To build community among ministries & coordinators.



*Used with permission from St. Anne Catholic Church, Columbus, Georgia*

**Example 3.35 (cont'd).**

## **Ministry Coordinator's Leadership Workshop Agenda**

# Parish Stewardship Education and Formation

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**30 minutes** 1. Begin in the Chapel for Opening prayer service focusing on Luke 24:13-35 including music & time for reflection & sharing with 1 person.

**Reflection question:** Each one of us has our own Emmaus story. We ask you to choose one person and both of you will take an Emmaus walk together. Take 10 minutes to share your story of times in which you have experienced challenges as a ministry coordinator as well as times in which God's intervention has given you hope and consolation, just like the disciples on the road to Emmaus.

**10 minutes** 2. Move to meeting room for program.

**15 minutes** 3. Stewardship message

- Theology of Stewardship ( Biblical Background)
- Discussion of vision statement and goals set by Pastoral council
- How has your involvement in Stewardship affected your life?
- How can you as a leader in Stewardship help facilitate that in others?

**20 minutes** 4. Break out into small groups:

- New Coordinators - New within this past year, facilitated discussion reviewing the role description of a Ministry Coordinator (*Example 3.36*)
- Other Coordinators - Small group review and discussion of their 3 biggest challenges this past year and how they handled those challenges

**10 minutes** 5. Discussion of our Stewardship Process

- Review of the Parish's expectation of coordinators (see "Ministry Coordinator Time and Talent Renewal Checklist" (*Example 3.37*))
- How they will receive list of new volunteers
- Timeline for follow - up of volunteers
- Importance of follow-up
- What to do if you can't reach a volunteer:
- Stewardship Committee support and involvement

**10 minutes** 6. Discussion regarding: How is our Stewardship process working?

**10 minutes** 7. Close the evening with prayer and candle service, include music

# Parish Stewardship Education and Formation

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## **Example 3.36.**

### **Ministry Coordinator Role Description**

## **Your Parish Name**

### *Ministry Coordinator Role Description*

#### **Responsibilities\***

- Attend annual Ministry Coordinators' Leadership Workshop.
- Help develop a ministry mission statement, which is consistent with the parish mission, and discuss with the ministry team how this mission is fulfilled.
- Make sure parish Stewardship secretary has a copy of the current ministry mission statement.
- Maintain an updated list of volunteers and report changes to the parish Stewardship secretary.
- Set ministry goals and calendar for the year. Be sure to communicate these to the ministry team.
- Communicate with parish staff about scheduling of events.
  - Scheduling of the parish facilities must be approved by parish staff.
  - If special room set-up is required, forms are available in the Parish office and must be filled out at least 3 days prior to an event.
- Establish a trained back-up coordinator or assistant coordinator.
- Maintain responsibility for contacting, training, and developing ministry members.
- Provide regular communication with ministry members.
- Recognize and acknowledge volunteers.

#### **Qualifications**

- Registered, active member of the parish.
- Commitment to the mission of the Catholic Church.
- Positive outlook about Stewardship and his/her ministry.
- Ability to organize and a willingness to assume responsibility for development of his/her ministry.

#### **Responsible To**

- Stewardship Secretary

\*This can be adjusted based on the unique personality of your parish

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## **Example 3.37.**

# *Parish Stewardship Education and Formation*

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## **Ministry Coordinator Time and Talent Renewal Checklist**

- Reviewed ministry description for Ministry Catalog and updated as needed
- Returned updated ministry description to parish office
- Filled out and return Time and Talent renewal brochure
- Received volunteer list by (DATE)
- Contacted all volunteers by (DATE)
- Reported all volunteer list changes to Stewardship Committee representative
- Contacted parish office about need of follow-up postcards
- Filled out and mailed follow-up postcards to volunteers unable to reach by phone

**Notes:**

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**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND WEB SITES ON STEWARDSHIP**

# *Parish Stewardship Education and Formation*

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[http://dioceseofcleveland.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=129&Itemid=255](http://dioceseofcleveland.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=129&Itemid=255)

Link to the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland Stewardship Office. OR go to <http://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/> and click on the Stewardship Office link.

<http://www.catholicStewardship.org/en/index.html>

Link to the International Catholic Stewardship Council.

<http://www.cruzblanca.org/hermanoleon/>

Link to a Catholic free clip art web site.

[www.diometuchen.org/Stewardshipoffice/prayer\\_treasures.htm](http://www.diometuchen.org/Stewardshipoffice/prayer_treasures.htm)

Link to Diocese of Metuchen --resources for weekly scripture selections based on Stewardship themes.

<http://www.StewardshipIli.org/>

Link to Diocese of Rockville Stewardship page, with many free downloadable resources.

[www.nccbuscc.org](http://www.nccbuscc.org)

Link for a variety of resources on Stewardship and other topics from the US Bishops Conference.

<http://www.archstl.org/Stewardship/whatis/inserts.html>

Link to the Archdiocese of St. Louis, and in particular, their bulletin inserts regarding weekly Stewardship themes.

[http://www.cdowk.org/Stewardship\\_development/about\\_Stewardship.shtml](http://www.cdowk.org/Stewardship_development/about_Stewardship.shtml)

Link to the Diocese of Wichita Stewardship page with free downloadable resources.

<http://kingdomassignment.com/welcome/#>

Link to learning more about this incredible journey of parishioners sharing gifts. St. Barnabas Parish in Northfield has had a remarkable experience with this approach.

<http://livingfaithatwork.org>

Link to a Catholic perspective and suggestions for fostering faith at work.

## **Useful Web sites for personal prayer/study:**

[www.activeparishioner.com/](http://www.activeparishioner.com/)

[www.centeringspace.org/](http://www.centeringspace.org/)

[www.creativecommunications.com](http://www.creativecommunications.com)

This link leads to publications for use in parishes, particularly products to enhance the liturgical worship and personal devotional life for Catholic parishes. Their catalogs include hundreds of Christian print and electronic media products.

[www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.htm](http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.htm)

[dioceseofcleveland.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=blogcategory&id=25&Itemid=107](http://dioceseofcleveland.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=25&Itemid=107)

# Parish Stewardship Education and Formation

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[www.henrinouwen.org/home/free\\_eletters/](http://www.henrinouwen.org/home/free_eletters/)

[www.nccbuscc.org/nab/index.htm](http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab/index.htm)

[www.jesuit.ie/prayer/index.htm](http://www.jesuit.ie/prayer/index.htm)

[www.praythenews.com](http://www.praythenews.com)

[www.sacredspace.ie/](http://www.sacredspace.ie/)

[www.universalis.com](http://www.universalis.com)

[www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

## **Related DVDs available to borrow from the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland Stewardship Office (call 216-696-6525 and ask for the Stewardship Office)**

NOOMA, “*Rich*”, an engaging 10 minute DVD about the need to share our gifts with the larger world.

RSI Catholic Services Group, “*Reflections on the Pastoral Letter*”, an enlightening DVD featuring the late Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy who shares his experiences of chairing the Bishops’ committee that wrote the USCCB Pastoral Letter – Stewardship – A Disciple’s Response.

## **Books, articles and other links related to Stewardship**

Buckingham, Marcus and Donald O. Clifton, Now, Discover Your Strengths, New York: Free Press, 2001.

Buckingham, Marcus, First, Break All the Rules (see [www.gallup.com](http://www.gallup.com) ).

Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, Evangelization Office, 1404 E. Ninth Street, Cleveland, OH, 44114 or call 216-696-6525. All Are Welcome – A Manual for Parish Hospitality.

Champlin, Joseph, M, A Way of Life, Collegeville, Minnesota: Liturgical Press, 2004 or go to <http://www.litpress.org/Detail.aspx?ISBN=0814630065>.

Clements, Justin C., Stewardship – A Parish Handbook, Liguori, Missouri: Liguori Publications, 2000 or go to [www.liguori.org](http://www.liguori.org).

Conway, Daniel, Stewardship in America – A Countercultural Way of Life, Indianapolis, Indiana: Saint Catherine of Siena Press, 2006 or go to [www.saintcatherineofsienapress.com](http://www.saintcatherineofsienapress.com).

Conway, Daniel, What Do I Own and What Owns Me?, Mystic, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 2005 or go to [www.twentythirdpublications.com](http://www.twentythirdpublications.com).

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Diocese of Wichita, 424 N. Broadway, Wichita, KS 67202; Four Pillars of Stewardship, invites parishioners to experience, witness and live the Stewardship way of life in response to their baptismal call to discipleship or go to [http://www.cdowk.org/Stewardship\\_development/Stewardship\\_pillars.shtml](http://www.cdowk.org/Stewardship_development/Stewardship_pillars.shtml).

Diocese of Saginaw, 5800 Weiss St., Saginaw, MI 48603; [http://www.saginaw.org/Little Burgundy Book on Stewardship](http://www.saginaw.org/Little_Burgundy_Book_on_Stewardship) – scriptural reflections on Stewardship.

Heart to Heart Communications, 40 University Avenue, Akron, OH 44308, 330-434-3278 or go to [www.H2HC.org](http://www.H2HC.org) (good resource for information on applying faith to work issues).

Hendricks, Kathy, Everything About Parish Ministry I Wish I Had Known, Mystic, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 2002 or go to [www.twentythirdpublications.com](http://www.twentythirdpublications.com).

Hueckel, Sharon, Stewardship by the Book (Bulletin bits based on the Sunday readings), Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor, 2004 or go to [www.osv.com](http://www.osv.com).

International Catholic Stewardship Council, 1275 K Street, N.W., Suite 980, Washington, DC 20005-4006, call 1-202-289-1093 or go to [www.catholicStewardship.org](http://www.catholicStewardship.org).

Leider, Richard J. and Shapiro, David, Whistle While You Work: Heeding Your Life's Calling, San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc.

Lenahan, Phil, 7 Steps to Becoming Financially Free, Huntington, Indiana: Our Sunday Visitor, 2007 or go to [www.osv.com](http://www.osv.com).

Mahan, Daniel J., More Than Silver or Gold – Homilies of a Stewardship Priest, Indianapolis, Indiana: Saint Catherine of Siena Press, 2005 or go to [www.morethansilverorgold.com](http://www.morethansilverorgold.com).

Morris, Danny, and Olsen, Charles, M., Discerning God's will Together: A Spiritual Practice for the Church Nashville: Upper Room Books, 1997.

Nouwen, Henri J.M., The Spirituality of Fundraising, New York: Estate of Henri J.M. Nouwen Society, 2004 or go to <http://www.henrinouwen.org/home/booklet/> for a free booklet.

Our Sunday Visitor publishes many different resources on Catholic Stewardship. Go to <http://www.osv.com/MiscNav/AdvancedSearch/SearchResults/tabid/97/Default.aspx?Search=Stewardship&Scope=B>.

Paprocki, You Give them Something to Eat, Notre Dame, Indiana: Ave Maria Press, 1998.

Petro, Vicky and Palencar, Lee, Spiritual Gifts Experience is a Gifts Discernment workshop and workbook that is foundational to living and grooming exceptional Stewardship. Call Vicky Petro for details and to schedule a presentation for your parish or group. at 440-506-0811.

U.S. Catholic Bishops, Office of Publishing and Promotion Services.  
Call 1-800-235-8722 or go to [www.nccbuscc.org](http://www.nccbuscc.org) Numerous resources including: Stewardship – A Disciple's Response (A Pastoral Letter on Stewardship); Called and Gifted for the Third Millennium, reflections of the U.S. Catholic Bishops on the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Decree on

## *Parish Stewardship Education and Formation*

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the Apostolate of the Laity, and Global Climate Change, a religious and moral perspective on the need for environmental protection.

Warren, Rick, The Purpose Driven Life, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2002 or go to [www.zondervan.com](http://www.zondervan.com).

Winesman, Albert L., Clifton, Donal, O., and Liesveld, Curt, Living your Strengths, New York: Gallup Press, 2003-2004.

Zech, Charles E., Why Catholics Don't Give...And What Can Be Done About It, Huntington, Indiana: Our Sunday Visitor, 2006.

# Stewardship Logo

## of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland

Our logo is designed to encompass elements of the Catholic Christian's Stewardship journey. The three colored spheres signify the most common themes of Stewardship practice – time, talent, and treasure. The loop encircling the top of the cross represents the Church, where we are enabled and encouraged to live out our gifts in the hope of building God's Kingdom on earth. This hope is rooted in the cross, the most basic tenet of our faith. In the death and resurrection of Jesus we are offered salvation and our place in the Kingdom. Living a life of Stewardship is living fully in the knowledge that God will supply all our needs through the gift we are to each other. The beautiful font, colors, and general design combine contemporary and traditional styles which reinforce the awareness that Stewardship is an age-old but ongoing process within our Catholic lives.



**GOD'S GIFTS** *for* **GOD'S PEOPLE**  
| *time, talent and treasure* |