
Stewardship – A Way of Life: Time, Talent & Treasure



Fr. John McGee, OSFS

Regional Stewardship Gathering

Embassy Suites, Cary, NC

Today's Agenda

- What is Stewardship?
- The Language of Stewardship
- The 2 Keys to Stewardship
- A Parish Structure for Stewardship
- Key Roles in Stewardship

What is Stewardship?

- “Stewardship is an inner attitude which with faith and gratitude recognizes that everything is a gift from God and with openness of heart willingly gives a portion of those gifts to others, especially the poor, for building up the Church and making this a better world.”

- Joseph M. Champlin

What is Stewardship?

- “Stewardship, and sacrificial giving which is one form of stewardship, thus has more to do with a spiritual approach than with a practical program. It touches one’s interior self and inner attitude. It should deeply affect the manner in which we live and ideally become a way of life for us.”

- Joseph M. Champlin

What is Stewardship?

- “Disciples who practice stewardship recognize God as the origin of life, the giver of freedom, the source of all they have and are and will be... They know themselves to be recipients and caretakers of God’s many gifts. They are grateful for what they have received and eager to cultivate their gifts out of love for God and one another.”

- American bishop’s pastoral letter *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*

Who is a Christian Steward?

- “One who receives God’s gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord.”

- American bishop’s pastoral letter *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*



What is the Language of Stewardship?

- Passionate
- Pastoral
- Persuasive
- Persistent
- Positive
- Present



The Language of Stewardship:

Passionate

- “We don’t have enough lectors! We need more.”
- “Our liturgical celebrations are wonderful because of the communities involvement! At our 5:15 PM liturgy we would like to have 5 more lectors – those wishing to bring God’s word to life please see Louise Jenkins outside in the gathering area immediately after the liturgy. We appreciate your response to this call of ministry.”

The Language of Stewardship:

Pastoral

- QUESTION: “I would like to have my child baptized on June 5th at the 11AM liturgy. I just moved into the parish.”
- RESPONSE: “You haven’t been registered in the parish for 3 months. I’m sorry. We cannot baptize your child at the 11AM liturgy on June 5th.”

The Language of Stewardship:

Pastoral

- QUESTION: “I would like to have my child baptized on June 5th at the 11AM liturgy. I just moved into the parish.”
- RESPONSE: “We’re glad that you’ve moved here. Welcome to our parish. We have a process that helps parents and godparents understand what it means to be baptized into the faith of Jesus Christ. Our Faith Development Director would be happy to meet with you. Please give her a call at the number listed in this parish bulletin. She will also be able to inform you on our Baptism workshop schedule, guidelines for parents and godparents, and our liturgy schedule. Again welcome ... don’t forget to call her!”

The Language of Stewardship: Persuasive

- QUESTION: “We need somebody to take over the Hospitality Committee. Can you do it?”

- RESPONSE: “No.”



The Language of Stewardship:

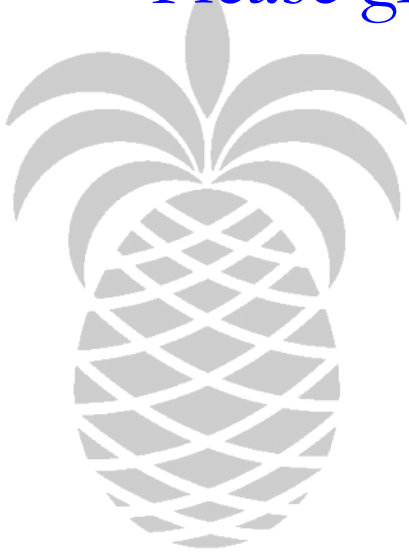
Persuasive

- QUESTION: “Ruth Seeber is moving to Florida and has been working as our Hospitality coordinator for 13 years. You have worked with her for the past 3 years. I would like you to consider sharing your talent in a step beyond what you are doing by serving the community as our new Hospitality coordinator. Would you please prayerfully consider this request, and I will get back to you in 2-3 days? Is that OK with you?”
- RESPONSE: “I don’t feel as qualified as Ruth, but since you asked me, I will gladly consider this request. I feel honored that you would think of me as coordinator of this important ministry.”

The Language of Stewardship:

Persistent

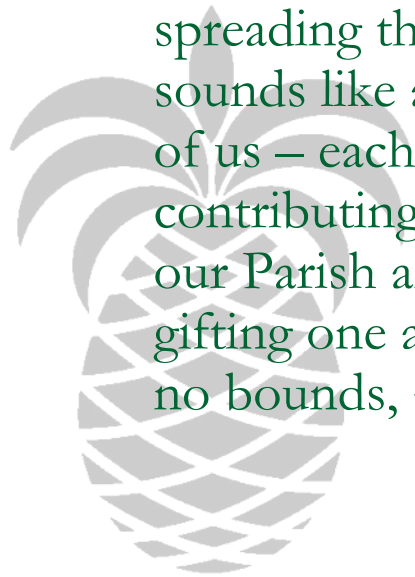
- “Our Bishop’s Annual Appeal goal is \$125,000. Please give generously to this appeal.”



The Language of Stewardship:

Persistent

- “The Bishop’s Annual Appeal is critical to the lifeblood of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Raleigh. It not only assists the Diocese in serving the community, but it helps each of us serve one another by spreading the gospel message. Our parish goal is \$125,000. I know that sounds like a lot, because it is, but more importantly, God has blessed all of us – each in our own way. I hope we can prayerfully consider contributing a portion of our treasure to the vital ministries that support our Parish and Diocese. God continues to gift us. Let us gift him by gifting one another with a portion of our treasure. God's bounty knows no bounds, and neither does ours.



The Language of Stewardship:

Positive

- “Our vacation bible camp is going to be cancelled unless we get 20 volunteers.”
- “Our kids enjoy vacation bible camp. In order for this to be a wonderful experience for our young children, we need your assistance. The 20 volunteers have lots of opportunities and varied times to serve in this ministry. Check it out after the liturgy with Katrina Matthews. She’s holding our “Hands Across the Water” banner – you can’t miss her. Otherwise she’ll sink! Thanks for considering this opportunity.”

The Language of Stewardship: Present

- “Father John! I need to speak with you for about 5 minutes. Can I do this right after the liturgy?”
- “No. I have another meeting.”



The Language of Stewardship:

Present

- “Father John! I need to speak with you for about 5 minutes. Can I do this right after the liturgy?”
- “I can’t meet you right after the liturgy, because I have 3 appointments with our Confirmation candidates, but I can meet you after the last liturgy of the day. Is that all right with you?”

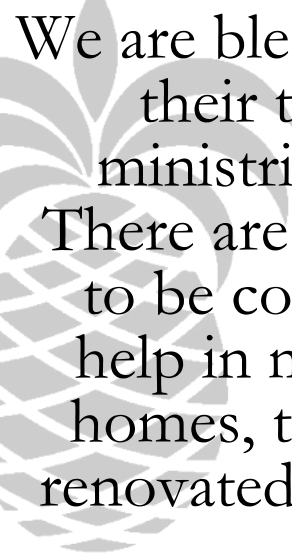
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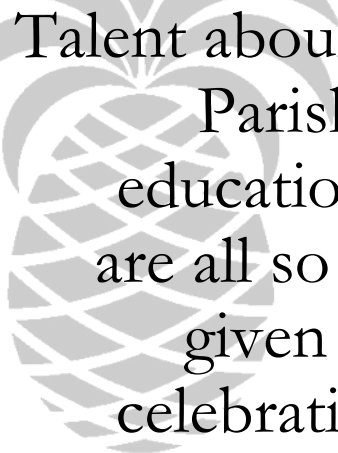
Time



We are blessed to have many parishioners who willingly share their time for the benefit of all of us. We boast over 40 ministries in which 300+ households of all ages are active. There are programs to be designed, letters to be written, pages to be collated, and so on. Others share their time with their help in maintaining the parish property. Just like in our own homes, there is always something to be repaired, replaced or renovated. These people and their expertise are a great asset to our parish.

The Language of Stewardship:

Talent



Talent abounds in our parish; a lot of undiscovered talent, too. Parishioners give of their spiritual, artistic, financial, educational, and other abilities. Our liturgies, of which we are all so rightly proud, do not just happen. Many hours are given to make them meaningful and inspiring. Parish celebrations, too, are the result of efforts by many people, who give of their talents for fun, for food, for everyone.

The Language of Stewardship:

Treasure

Much of what happens at our parish requires money. Volunteers can only do so much, and then the bills need to be paid. Parishioners do, for the most part, honor their fiscal responsibilities to the Church.

We are all aware of the uneven state of the economy and the difficulties it has raised for some parishioners.

Just as the economy affects each of us so, too, does it present problems for the financial well-being of the parish. In light of this, we ask that, if you can, you consider adding to your weekly/monthly contributions to help preserve the financial health of the parish.

Our future as a parish community depends on your financial support for all that we are trying to accomplish as a faith community. We thank you for your past support and look forward to your continued generosity.

What are the Keys to Stewardship?

Welcome

- Am I a welcoming person?
- Is there room in my life for others, or am I too busy?
- Do I extend a welcoming gesture with a warm smile?
- Do I hear with my heart as well as with my head?
- Do I go out of my way, even when it is not convenient to do so?

What are the Keys to Stewardship?

Welcome

- Do I try to use inclusive language whenever possible?
- Do I work on my own spiritual development?
- Am I open to full, conscious, active participation in worship and in parish activities/events?
- Do I make an effort to encounter Jesus Christ in the people with whom I work, play and worship?

What are the Keys to Stewardship?

Hospitality

- **Personal presence** refers to being with people and being truly attentive to them. There is great comfort in being with people, sharing our stories and listening to theirs.
- **An inner attitude** calls for deep changes, changes that go below the surface. If we possess an inner attitude, hospitality will become a way of life. We won't find ourselves thinking: It's Sunday, I have to be hospitable today.

What are the Keys to Stewardship?

Hospitality

- **Making space** literally means what it implies. We have to make room for others in our lives both physically and attitudinally. Just as we make room for a spouse, our children or a sibling to enter our lives, so too do we need to make space for others.
- In order to **pay attention** to people, listening skills are needed. Developing these skills will enable us to pay attention with both our minds and our bodies, with both our heads and our hearts.

What are the Keys to Stewardship?

Hospitality

- Hospitality is the least expensive effort to put into place in a parish. The cost is self. If we each give of our self, we can help others to feel they belong at our parish. We can alleviate our discomfort.

- Fr. Eugene Walsh, S.S.



What are the Keys to Stewardship?

Hospitality

- In the words of Henry Nouwen, we can provide our guests with “a friendly space, where they may feel free to come and go, to be close and distant, to eat and to fast”. We can create a space where our guests can find their own soul.



Welcome and Hospitality – Do You and Your Parish...

- *Welcome people from different cultures?*
- *Welcome people from other faith traditions?*
- *Welcome people into liturgical ministry?*
- *Welcome people into leadership positions in the community?*
- *Have a welcome brochure?*
- *Have a informational packet?*
- *Have Welcoming Events / a Stewardship Fair?*
- *Have a parish website?*
- *Have items of welcome?*

The Road to Stewardship in Your Parish

- What is your parish structure?



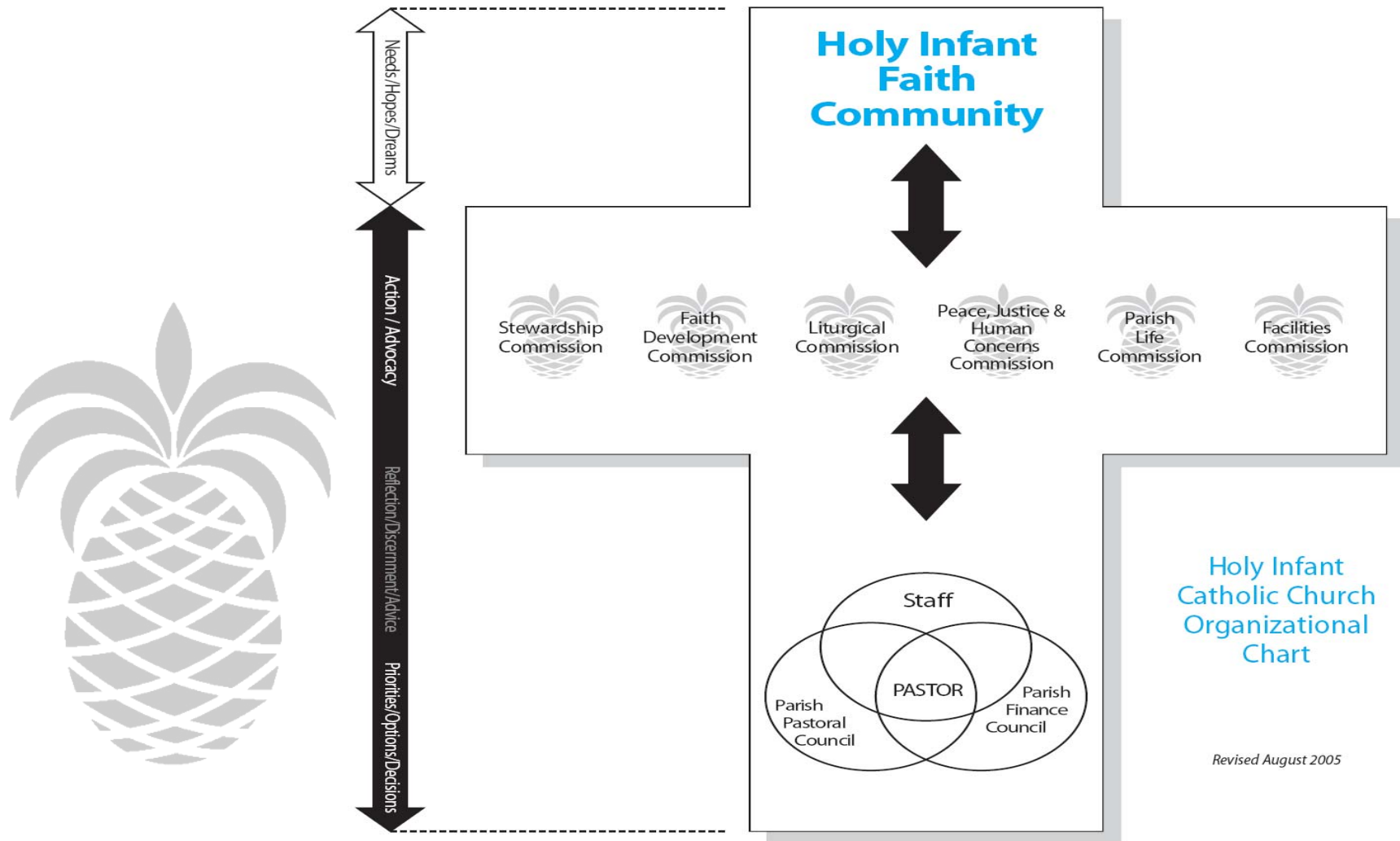
Your Parish Structure – Is It Like This?

- Pastor / Pastoral Administrator
- Committees
- Staff
- Events
- Parish Pastoral Council
- Ad hoc committees
- Parish Finance Council
- Liturgy
- Social Justice
- Faith Development
- Parishioners

Your Parish Structure – Or Is It Like This?

- Pastor / Pastoral Administrator / Staff
- Parish Pastoral Council
- Parish Finance Council
- Stewardship / Evangelization
- Faith Development
- Liturgy
- Social Justice
- Committees
- Events
- Ad hoc committees
- Parishioners

A Suggested Parish Structure

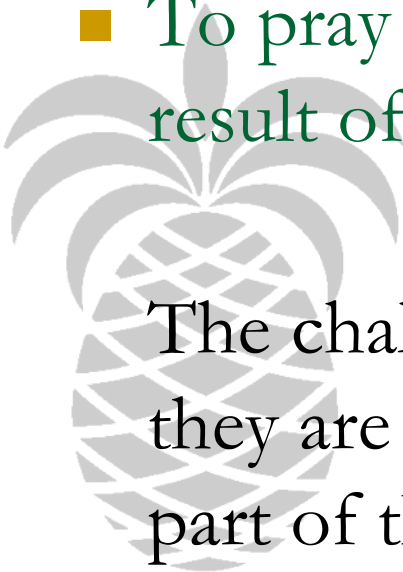


What is the Role of the Pastor / Pastoral Administrator?

- To keep the message of stewardship and evangelization alive all year long – not a program with a beginning and an end – constantly ongoing
- Commitment is necessary in all phases of the process
 - Stewardship Selection Committee
 - Assisting in the development of presentations
 - Incorporating stewardship into homilies, reflections, ...
 - Thanking people for all they do in serving
 - Assisting in Stewardship Days
 - Studying the concept of stewardship to understand how it relates to evangelization

What is the Role of the Pastor / Pastoral Administrator?

- Good communicator
- Encouraging others by example
- To pray that people will grow in the parish as a result of their embracing stewardship



The challenge is to assist others to understand that they are all called to be evangelizers as an essential part of the mission of the church.

What is the Role of the Parish Pastoral Council?

- Advisory?
- Consultative?
- Collaborative with Pastor / Pastoral Administrator?
With Parish Finance Council?
- Decision Making?
- Rubber Stamp?
- Visionary?
- Communicative?
- Is there an Understanding of Stewardship?

What is the Role of the Parish Finance Council?

- Money Matters Only?
- Advisory?
- Consultative?
- Collaborative with Pastor / Pastoral Administrator? With Parish Pastoral Council?
- Decision Making?
- Rubber Stamp?
- Tithing?
- Communicative?
- Is there an Understanding of Stewardship?

What is Your Support System for Ministries? Activities? Events?

- Is there an understanding of Stewardship?
- Is there training on Stewardship?
- Is Time, Talent and Treasure appreciated by the coordinators and members of your ministries?
- Is the parish aware that Stewardship and Evangelization is part of its lifeblood?
- Is there a line of communication that is visible to all parishioners?

Next Steps

- Where does the community go from here?
- How do you operate / function as a community presently?
- How would you like to change, or not?
- How would you structure a change that would support stewardship?



The Road to Stewardship in Your Parish

Is Stewardship a *Way of Life*
(Time / Talent / Treasure)



Visible in the parish community right now?

Or, only visible occasionally?

Resources

- Christian Hospitality, Archdiocese of Louisville, 2002
- Grateful Caretakers of God's Many Gifts, Joseph M. Champlin, Liturgical Press, 2002
- How to Present a Ministry Fair, Rita McCarthy Swartz, Sheed & Ward, 1996
- Parish Accountability and Reporting, Rita McCarthy Swartz, Sheed & Ward, 1996
- Stewardship – A Disciple's Response, National Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1993
- Stewardship and Evangelization: A Disciple's Response, Diocese of Raleigh, 2003
- Stewardship by the Book, Sharon Hueckel, Sheed & Ward, 1996
- Stewardship Programs for Children and Youth, Rita McCarthy Swartz, Sheed & Ward, 1996
- The Total Parish Manual, William J. Bausch, Twenty-Third Publications, 1994
- Thy Kingdom Come, National Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1999
- Tools for Building Your Volunteer Ministry, Margie Morris, Newton-Cline Press, 1992
- Tomorrow's Parish – Choosing Your Future, Archdiocese of Chicago, 1995