

### **DEFINITION OF STEWARDSHIP**

The grateful response of a Christian disciple who recognizes and receives God's gifts and shares these gifts in love of God and neighbor.

### **WHY IS THE STEWARDSHIP WAY OF LIFE IMPORTANT?**

- Stewardship is about living the life that God calls all of us to live.
- Stewardship is rooted in Christ's call to every one of us to "come and follow" Him.
- Stewardship is our way of responding to Christ's call – it means, "I will be your disciple."
- As everyone lives out their role as a disciple, the parish will experience the spiritual and financial growth needed to carry out the Church's mission, the salvation of souls.
- When the framework of stewardship is established throughout an entire parish, people's hearts are touched and they experience a deeper relationship with God.
- With a clear vision, strong leadership, and the grace of the Holy Spirit, parishes improve the spirituality of the parish family and the concrete expression of gratitude comes to life through the parishioners sharing of their gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

### **STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL PURPOSE**

- The Stewardship Council works with the pastor, parish staff and ministry leaders to educate, engage and empower the parish community about the spirituality of stewardship.
- They oversee the annual Catholic Stewardship Renewal (CSR) process which includes the planning, communication and development of materials, recruiting and training lay witnesses and leading the accountability of the stewardship way of life.
- The annual CSR process is not merely an administrative exercise, instead it is a communal activity, geared toward strengthening us on the road to discipleship. It is a parishioners' way of proclaiming "I am part of this community and – by my faith and commitment – supportive of the mission and vision."
- They ensure participation in the Grateful Living the Joy of Stewardship small group program. One 6-week session during Lent and one 6-week session during Advent.
- The Stewardship Council is separate from the other councils. Representatives from the Stewardship Council should serve as a liaison to the other councils to ensure consistent communication among the councils as they all work together to make stewardship a way of life in the parish.
- The pastor provides spiritual leadership through preaching about the spirituality of stewardship and fully supporting the stewardship way of life.

### **WHAT DOES ACTIVE STEWARDSHIP LOOK LIKE?**

An "active steward" demonstrates their commitment to Christ by pledging to:

- **Actively Pray** (attend Mass on weekends and Holy Days)
- **Participate** (by giving of their time and talent in the support of the life and ministry of the parish)
- **Sacrificially Give** (returning to God what is God's, in financial support of the work of His Church)

### **FOUR PILLARS OF STEWARDSHIP**

- **Hospitality**  
"When I was a stranger, you welcomed me." Matthew 23:35
- **Prayer**  
"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your request known to God." Philippians 4:6
- **Formation**  
"I, the Lord, your God, teach you what is for your good, and lead you on the way you should go." Isaiah 46:17
- **Service**  
"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." 1 Peter 4:10

**STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL  
SUMMARY OF COMMITMENT**

- ***Prayer Commitment*** – Reflect and pray about stewardship in your personal life and the life of the parish.
- ***Time Commitment*** – One meeting a month plus participation on one other key task, special project or event
- ***Educate, Engage and Empower Commitment*** – Actively seek to learn more about the spirituality of stewardship to engage others and empower them to live the stewardship way of life.
- ***Group Process Commitment*** – Willingness to work in a group process of prayer, consensus building, planning, and successful implementation of parish stewardship activities.
- ***Duration of Commitment*** – It is recommended that members serve 2 to 3-year terms. The initial set up of the council will require staggered terms to allow for individuals to rotate off and new members to be added.

**DISCERNMENT PRAYER**

Lord, my God and my loving Father, you have made me to know you, to love you and to serve you. I know that you are in all things, and that every path can lead me to you.

But of them all, there is one especially by which you want me to come to you. Since I will do what you want of me, I pray you, send your Holy Spirit to me: into my mind, to show me what you want of me; into my heart, to give me the determination to do it, and to do it with all my love, with all my mind, and with all of my strength. Jesus, I trust in you. Amen