

Beginning a Parish Stewardship Committee



General Notes

- The first step to helping others along the journey of discipleship is to be able to reflect upon and articulate your own sense of discipleship with other leaders in the Christian community.
- The Parish Stewardship Committee is not just task-oriented, but very concerned with personal spiritual growth within the context of a community of those who believe that God is calling them to help others in the parish grow in spirituality and the practice of the faith.
- Study and reflect upon the U.S. Bishops' Pastoral: *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*.
- Use/adapt the faith-sharing tool: *The Disciple as Steward* for the first six meetings.
- Select a Committee Chairperson.
Someone who has the gifts/skills necessary to help form and lead the initial Committee into becoming a cohesive and productive group gathered together to help promote stewardship as a way of life within the Christian community.
- Terms for Committee members (suggestion: three years, with staggered terms thereafter).
- Participate in Diocesan formational opportunities for parish stewardship leaders (e.g. Fall and Spring Training, Retreats, Pastoral Formation Institute Stewardship Leadership Course.)
- Make use of all the resources available from the diocesan Office of Parish Stewardship.
- Realize that the process of adapting stewardship as a way of life in the parish *takes time* - generations. Do not be discouraged easily. Be supported and nurtured in the fact that you are part of something that, when embraced by many in this parish, will encourage all to share their God-given gifts so that this parish can move closer to proclaiming God's Kingdom.

The Designing Stage

- Example of a First Meeting:
 - 1) Prayer, Scripture Reflection (e.g. Session 1 in *The Disciple as Steward* led by Pastor).
 - 2) Begin Brainstorming Process "What are your hopes for the work of this Committee?
What are some things upon which the Committee can focus?" (A wish list. Make sure to follow the rules for brainstorming.)
 - 3) Consolidation and Grouping of Ideas.
- Example of a Second Meeting:
 - 1) Prayer, Scripture Reflection (e.g. Session 2 in *The Disciple as Steward* led by Chairperson).
 - 2) Determining Committee Goals (based upon prioritization of the grouped ideas from the last meeting). Develop one, two or three short term and long term goals (follow the rules for setting achievable goals).
 - 3) Design Specific Objectives (What are the steps that are necessary to achieve each goal?).