

COMMON KEYS TO SUCCESS (FOR PARISH STEWARDSHIP) *



Commitment by the Pastor and Parish Leadership.

We have found that when the Pastor, priests and staff are committed to Stewardship as a Way of Life, the parishioners will follow. This is true leadership by example.



A Top-Notch Stewardship Director/Coordinator and/or Chairperson.

A highly-motivated, personable and gifted leader is critical to the overall success of the Stewardship effort. This leader knows the importance of delegation and inviting others to identify and share their gifts.



Personal Introduction to Stewardship.

The parishes that have been most successful met one-on-one with staff of the Office of Parish Stewardship for a thorough overview of what Stewardship is all about prior to kick-off.



The Nuts and Bolts of the Renewal Process.

Parishes have done very well when there has been a step-by-step walk through of the process for both Treasure and Time and Talent Renewals by diocesan experts.



Stewardship Networking.

Attendance at Stewardship Support Gatherings has proven to be a helpful exchange of ideas and parish experiences.



Stewardship Training.

These workshops and in-depth sessions offered through PFI and the Office of Parish Stewardship focus on the formation of Stewardship leaders. They bring about greater understanding of the spirituality and principles behind Stewardship and its implementation in the parish.



An Active Committee.

Clearly this has been an overwhelming positive characteristic of a leading Stewardship parish. The most successful parishes have a committee developed over time and is made-up of people who have come to a deeper understanding and appreciation of Stewardship as a Way of Life. The Committee and the Stewardship effort need to properly represent the multicultural realities of the parish.



Effective Communications.

More and more parishes are turning towards computers and other technologies to help get the Stewardship message out to parishioners. A major component to this is critical data management that helps parishes track and use data to assist with the Stewardship effort.



Stay the Course.

We have found that parishes that decided to drop components of the process experienced a decline in the overall Stewardship effort. The gifts of patience and perseverance are tremendous aids to the implementation of Stewardship as a Way of Life.



Reflect Multicultural Diversity of the Parish

We have seen that multicultural parishes who have embraced Stewardship can begin to bridge the gaps that may be present between various communities. Having a multicultural Stewardship Committee is a first step in celebrating the gift of diversity.

* As gathered from a survey taken from 63 parishes in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, Spring, 2001