## LEADERSHIP

The Role of the Pastor

The pastor's commitment and involvement are vital to the successful on-going stewardship journey of a parish. A pastor must take a leadership role in inspiring parishioners to accept stewardship as a way of life. A pastor will be able to cultivate stewardship as a way of life only if he is committed to the spirituality of stewardship as a way of life personally, and for his parish. In addition, he will:

* Recognize and understand that prayer is central to stewardship.
* Share his own personal commitment to stewardship and be able to show tangible signs of his commitment.
* Promote hospitality.
* Support and encourage the Parish Stewardship Council.
* Embrace Scripture passages that affirm the principles of stewardship.
* Thank people for all they do to serve God by serving others.

The Role of the Parish Stewardship Council

The Parish Stewardship Council's mission is to provide stewardship awareness, education and year-round opportunities for parishioners to live a stewardship way of life.

Forming a Parish Stewardship Council

The Parish Stewardship Council is a freestanding council existing under the direction and appointment of the pastor. The size of the council depends on the size of the parish community. You can use the size of your parish council as a guide in determining this number. Members should serve for a specific term, possibly a three-year term.

Members

* People of prayer. Look for people who have a deep personal relationship with God, are grateful for their relationship and act out of gratitude. It is important that members are concerned about parishioners' relationship with God, not exclusively about the needs of the Church.
* Personally committed to stewardship as their way of life. They may not define their life as stewards, but they live it.
* Diversity. Look for people who are not the few who always volunteer.

Responsibilities

* Same understanding of stewardship. It is important for all members of the Council to have the same understanding of stewardship. To achieve this understanding, it is recommended that time is taken with each new member to study the Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Stewardship, *Stewardship: A Disciples Response.*
* Parish Assessment. An annual or periodic review of the parish ministries to ensure they are meeting the needs of the parishioners. (See Chapter 4)
* Stewardship Plan. (See Chapter 5)
* Time and Talent List. Prepare and regularly update a list of ministries offered in the parish.
* Assist ministry leaders with developing a stewardship component/curriculum for their area.
* Conduct the annual Stewardship Renewal month. This process is done over a four-week time frame and concludes the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving.
* Year-round stewardship awareness and education. Reflections in the parish bulletin can include Scripture quotes regarding stewardship. Develop Prayers of the Faithful with a stewardship message throughout the year.

Parish Stewardship Council

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| *Sample Bylaws*  MISSION  To provide stewardship awareness, education and year-round opportunities for parishioners to live a stewardship way of life as outlined in the USCCB's Pastoral Letter on Stewardship, *Stewardship a Disciple's Response.*  PURPOSE  Assists the Pastor/Administrator in overseeing and coordinating the on-going parish stewardship formation.  MEMBERSHIP   1. Appointed by the Pastor/Administrator 2. Must be registered, active members of {Parish} 3. The council is comprised of \_\_ members {Use number of Parish Council members as a guide}. 4. Ex-Officio Members    1. Pastor/Administrator    2. Parish Staff Representative    3. Parish Council President 5. Each member serves a three-year term   OFFICERS   1. Chairperson and Co-Chairperson appointed by the Pastor/Administrator 2. Officers serve for one-year terms 3. Responsibilities of the Officers    1. Chairperson: Conducts meetings, oversees/coordinates the council and committees. Serves as a liaison to the Diocese.    2. Co-Chairperson: Serves as the Chairperson elect, reports to the Chairperson, acts as the Chairperson in his/her absence, records and distributes minutes from meetings.   MEETINGS   1. The Parish Stewardship Council will meet monthly on the {Same day each month} from {time}. 2. Members are expected to attend all meetings. 3. Each member should attend all available diocesan stewardship formation events.   RESPONSIBILITIES   1. Conduct an assessment of how stewardship is emulated in the parish. 2. Bring parish results of assessment to Pastor/Administrator for review. 3. Create and submit a Stewardship Plan to Pastor/Administrator for review and approval. 4. Assist parish ministry leaders in bringing awareness of stewardship in their mission. 5. Conduct annual Stewardship Renewal in October/November. |