## YEAR-ROUND STEWARDSHIP AWARENESS AND FORMATION

Parish Assessment

In order for a parish to begin their stewardship journey, there must first be a reflective process on what the parish is currently doing that supports stewardship as a way of life. The Parish Stewardship Council should conduct an assessment of how stewardship is emulated in the parish. Below are sets of questions designed to assist in this process.

**Mass**

* Do homilies carry a stewardship message during various times of the year?
* Does the music liturgy carry a stewardship message?
* Is stewardship included in the Prayers of the Faithful?

**Welcoming/Hospitality**

* How welcoming are we as a community?
* How are current parishioners welcomed into our parish?
* Do we have a system for updating our parishioners' information on a routine basis?
* How are visitors welcomed into our parish?
* Do we have a "Welcome Packet" for new parishioners?

**Ministries**

* What are our current ministries?
* How are people invited to join the ministries?
* What other ministries are needed in our parish?
* How do we promote the needs and opportunities for ministries?
* Are all ministries receiving the support they need?
* Who are the current leaders of ministries in our parish?

**Committee/Council Meetings**

* How is stewardship practiced in our committee/council meetings?
* Does each member of our committees/councils understand stewardship as it is stated in the Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Stewardship?

**Staff**

* Do staff members of the parish understand stewardship as it is stated in the Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Stewardship?
* How do staff members greet guests and parishioners who arrive at the parish center?

**General**

* What are the specific needs of our parish?
* How are we all connected to the parish and to each other?
* How can the parish help parishioners use their talents/gifts to help others?
* What opportunities do we give parishioners to communicate new ideas for the parish?
* What is our parish's understanding of stewardship as a way of life?
* What are we doing to promote stewardship?
* What are the obstacles that must be overcome before stewardship becomes a way of life in our parish?
* Are we using publications (bulletins, etc.) to get the stewardship message out?

Ways to Engage Parishes in Stewardship

Below are a few suggestions of ways to engage your parishioners in the life of the parish.

**Mass**

* Homilies carry a stewardship message at least once a quarter.
* Music carries a stewardship message.
* Prayers of the Faithful focused on stewardship to be included during each Mass.

**Welcoming/Hospitality**

* Create welcome packets for newcomers and place them in a section of the vestibule where they can easily be seen.
* Invite newcomers to speak to a ministry leader after Mass.

**Ministries**

* Engage ministry leaders in stewardship through retreats and pastor support.
* Create a stewardship element in each of the parish ministries.

**Committee/Council Meetings**

* Invite a speaker to present on stewardship at a parish meeting.
* Make sure a stewardship report is always an item on the parish council meeting agenda.

**Staff**

* Provide staff with a list of ministry opportunities and the needs of each ministry.

**General**

* Place stewardship information, ideas, Bible verses in the bulletin on a weekly basis.
* Most parishes publish a financial report at least once a year. Along with this report, include a brief report on each ministry in the parish.