

Parish Stewardship Update

April 2002

Diocese of Rockford
Office of Stewardship Development

Phone (815) 964-6711

Fax (815) 968-2808

Web Site: www.stewardshiprockford.com

921 W. State Street

Rockford, IL 61102

Bob Pfundstein

Director of Parish Stewardship

e-mail: rpfundstein@rockforddiocese.org

Asking Once

Parishes combining their Parish Treasure Appeal with the Diocesan Stewardship Appeal

by Bob Pfundstein

For the past 14 years, since the 1988 appeal, parishes have been combining their local parish stewardship of treasure appeal with the Diocesan Stewardship appeal. There have been a varying number from year to year. Many have combined for a few years and then stopped, while some have consistently combined their appeals. This year 21 parishes will combine their treasure appeals. Fourteen parishes will be presenting the appeals during Mass using the "in-church" method, which includes individual pledge cards for Diocesan and Parish Stewardship. Six will be using the direct mail option where each household is sent both pledge cards. One parish is creating their own materials with individual cards and combining using the "in-church" appeal method.

The track record of parishes that combine their appeals for the stewardship of treasure has varied but overall has been very successful. For those parishes that have been combining for a while, the ordinary income over the past five years has risen consistently and has risen at a rate up to 25% higher than those parishes that have not combined and have presented a treasure appeal at another time during the year. This is a snapshot of the results and not all of the combining parishes have seen the same results. Many discussions have helped each parish determine which methodology works best for presenting the stewardship message.

There are pros and cons to any methodology so we will try to present them here for your consideration:



Pros:

1. Reduces to one "single ask" for treasure
2. Ties into the new fiscal year beginning in July
3. Helps visualize and promote the connections between the parish and the diocese
4. Gives the ability to budget the gift (suggested tithe – 5% to parish, 1% to diocese, 4% to other charities)

Cons:

1. Based on the calendar date of Easter, sometimes not enough weekends to promote parish stewardship effectively
2. Occasional confusion between the parish gift and the diocesan gift.
3. Too much information to process at one time through the parish offices and not enough time to process the parish stewardship follow-up
4. Parish stewardship of treasure materials limited in the combined method

The parishes that have decided to combine this year are:

<i>St. Patrick</i>	<i>Albany</i>
<i>St Rita of Cascia</i>	<i>Aurora</i>
<i>Holy Cross</i>	<i>Batavia</i>
<i>SS Peter & Paul</i>	<i>Cary</i>
<i>St Anne</i>	<i>Dixon</i>
<i>St Mary</i>	<i>Freeport</i>
<i>St Thomas Aquinas</i>	<i>Freeport</i>
<i>Immaculate Conception</i>	<i>Fulton</i>
<i>St Charles Borromeo</i>	<i>Hampshire</i>
<i>St Patrick</i>	<i>Woodstock</i>
<i>St Mary</i>	<i>Morrison</i>
<i>SS John & Catherine</i>	<i>Mount Carroll</i>
<i>St Patrick</i>	<i>Rochelle</i>
<i>St Peter Cathedral</i>	<i>Rockford</i>
<i>St Rita</i>	<i>Rockford</i>
<i>St John the Baptist</i>	<i>Savanna</i>
<i>St Mary</i>	<i>Sterling</i>
<i>Christ the King</i>	<i>Wonder Lake</i>
<i>Resurrection</i>	<i>Woodstock</i>



"The idea of stewardship is based on the first verse of the 24th Psalm: 'The Earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof.' From this first principle, both logic and theology come to the conclusion that we who inhabit the earth are managers, not owners. We are stewards. All we have we hold in trust - for sustaining life and serving one another. Congregations concerned about understanding and acting upon environmental issues are simply living their faith, a faith that calls for stewardship."

--Rev. William J. Byron, S.J.

**Celebrate Earth Day
April 22, 2002**

More With Less

From "Pray Always and Never Lose Heart"
A Treasury of Private Prayers for the Christian Steward

Holy God of wonder,
a 26-letter alphabet creates
a never-ending list of words.



Ten simple digits,
zero through nine,
produce countless
numerical combinations.

Twelve musical tones
give birth to all of the music
in the world.



Through these daily reminders,
Father, keep us aware
of how very little we need
in order to have more.

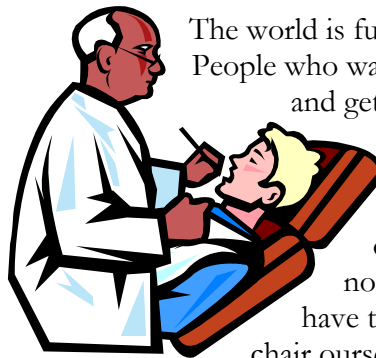
Teach us in Jesus' name.

Amen

Stewardship

From Christ the King Parish bulletin, Georgia

Two boys went to the dentist. The older of the two boys spoke up. "Doctor, I want a tooth taken out, and I don't want any gas, and I don't want it deadened because we're in a hurry." "Well, okay," said the dentist, "but tell me, which tooth is it?" The little boy turned to his small friend and said, "Show him your tooth, Albert!"



The world is full of people like that. People who want to see things happen and get things done, but who want someone else to pay the price or suffer the consequences. That's not the way it works. We have to get into the dentist chair ourselves. We have to recognize that giving of our time, talent, and treasure to our church is not something someone else does. It is an effort we all need to support. It is everyone's responsibility.