

Parish Stewardship Update

December 2002

Diocese of Rockford
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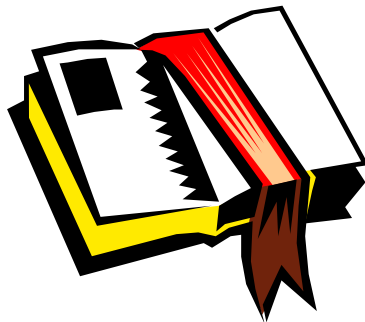
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Sharing Gifts! Christmas and beyond

Often, a very practical idea can be the best tool for teaching both children and adults. The following idea can be used with a family, a small group, children, adults or any other gathering you choose. It can be expanded to include your favorite stewardship scripture verses. It is originally from "The Covenant Steward" as published in the *Stewardship* Newsletter from Parish Publishing.

Here's a stewardship-awareness activity you can easily conduct with your entire family. Write each of the following scriptures on a separate piece of paper:

1 Samuel 1: 24-28
Mark 12: 41-44
Ruth 1: 16-17
2 Kings 4: 8-10
1 Samuel 18: 3-4
Acts 16: 15
Luke 10: 30-36



Take the seven pieces of paper, put each one in a separate envelope, and seal it. Write a different day of the week on each envelope. Each day, have your child open the appropriate envelope and locate the verse in the Bible. After reading the verses aloud, ask him or her to identify what gift each Bible character gave to others or to God.

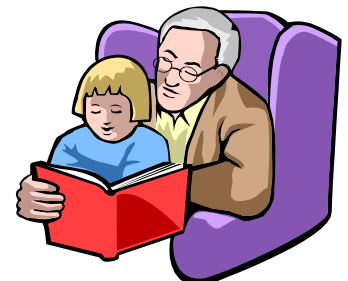
Discuss the fact that gifts were not always things that could be purchased with money. Talk about ways you and your child can begin sharing gifts such as these...

and special gifts or talents each of you might have... with God and others.



As we enter Advent and look forward to the Christmas Season, let's begin a conversation about the gifts we each have. We often overlook our own giftedness until someone we know offers us insights into our gifts. Listen to one another intently to discern the gifts with which God has blessed you. After that, let's form an action plan to use at least one of our gifts to honor and bring glory to God, the ultimate gift-giver.

**SHARE
YOUR
GIFTS
AND
TALENTS**



Good Stewardship ...

There are several ministries and parishes in the Diocese of Rockford that work directly with the poor, the homeless, and low-income families or individuals, and which promote Catholic life and moral teachings. It seems appropriate during this season of gift-giving, to help those for whom Jesus has a special place in his heart.

Please contact one or more of the following organizations in the Rockford Diocese and offer your time, skills or money as a way of showing your concern and faithful solidarity with them.

Archbishop Romero School

312 N. High Street

Aurora, IL 60505

(630) 898-8690

Inner-city school with an adopt-a-student program for families needing tuition assistance

SS. Peter & Paul Parish

617 Lincoln Ave

Rockford, IL 61102

(815) 962-7171

Inner-city parish with a high percentage of low-income families

Sacred Heart Parish

771 Fulton Street

Aurora, IL 60505

(630) 898-4165

Faith-filled community near St. Nicholas Parish and Archbishop Romero School that serves a high percentage of low-income families

In The Spirit Of Giving...

St. Patrick Parish

2505 School Street

Rockford, IL 61101

(815) 965-9539

Serving the community on the west side of Rockford with a clothing closet, food pantry, and anti-violence initiatives

St. Elizabeth Catholic Community Center

1536 S. Main Street

Rockford, IL 61102

(815) 969-6526

Inner-city ministry providing soup kitchen, food pantry, senior services and counseling to low-income people in southwest Rockford

Catholic Charities

Provides a variety of social services including: foster care, counseling, difficult pregnancy and adoption services, advocacy and outreach to the frail, elderly, physician referral for Medicaid clients, emergency and outreach services. Area offices are located in:

Aurora (630) 820-3220

Belvidere (815) 544-9092

DeKalb (815) 756-8632

Elgin (847) 742-4525

Freeport (815) 235-9563

JoDaviess

County (815) 777-1048

McHenry County (815) 344-6956

Rockford (815) 965-0623

Sterling (815) 625-6945

Immigration and Refugee Services

300 N. Alpine Road

Rockford, IL 61107

(815) 399-1709

Parish Emergency Assistance Network

1505 S. Main Street

Rockford, IL 61102

(815) 962-7020

What is your goal?

“Her goal was to use the gifts that God had put in her hands to further His love and His name during her lifetime.”

A daughter wrote this quote about her mother in the October ICL Lifeline Newsletter. How do you recognize the stewardship of those around you, even in your own family?