

# *Parish Stewardship Update*

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## **The Covenant**

### **Welcoming New Parishioners to Their Church Home**

*by Bob Pfundstein*

In years past, Fr. William Bausch produced a book entitled "The Total Parish Manual." This book has many great ideas for ongoing stewardship activities. The focus in this issue will be the Covenant concept suggested by Fr. Bausch and further developed by one of our parishes, St. Mary Parish in DeKalb. Fr. Karl Ganss, pastor at St. Mary's shared how they use the covenant. Each new family registering at the parish is encouraged to sign the covenant as a way of choosing to become more involved as a member of the parish. While not required it is one way a family can indicate their desire to be active as volunteers and with their financial support. One really nice tradition that has developed through the welcome ministry is the pastor going out to new parishioners and blessing their homes. I think this is a great tool for including the family home as an extension of the parish. It becomes a tool of Welcome, Orientation, Stewardship, and Evangelization. The following is a sample of their "Covenant" form:

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(Name of individual or family)

### *Covenant*

with the community of St. Mary's, DeKalb, Illinois

These days, journeying with a particular faith-community is largely voluntary. There is no compulsion to choose this way of life or this parish. Rightly or wrongly I people do not attach any kind of mortal sin in missing Mass. Unbaptized infants are considered as going to heaven. There must be a reason, then, why freely and without such compulsions you are seeking to join this community. We presume that you are accordingly motivated by a desire both to give to and receive from this community: that as in any relationship, you are bonding yourself freely in the give-and-take of our common life.

Therefore, you are ready to enter into a covenant with us -that most solemn contract of mutuality, concern and shared responsibility. There is no requirement to be perfect or without flaw or sin; only the promise to be faithful. Accordingly, this Covenant states as follows:

I/we promise to walk faithfully with our fellow parishioners of St. Mary's, to worship with them regularly and to make a commitment of Time, Talent, and Treasures as signified in my pledge to the Parish.

Signed

Pastor/Associate

Parish Council President/delegate

In due time you, and/or your family, along with other families, will be welcomed publicly and joyously into the community at one of the weekend Masses.

## Good Stewardship ...

# In The Spirit Of Giving...

This month I share with you a simple prayer from the newsletter of the Diocese of Palm Beach Office of Stewardship:

Oh Lord, When I have food,  
Help me to remember the hungry.

When I have work,  
Help me to remember the jobless.  
When I have a comfortable home,  
Help me to remember the homeless.

When I am without pain,  
Help me to remember the ill.

Destroy my complacency,  
Bestir my compassion,  
That I may see in the needy  
The face of Jesus Christ.

Keep the stewardship stories coming. Send some of your parish or personal sharing stories so they can be published to inspire others.

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Thanks for your individual stewardship efforts.



You Can Make a Difference ...

The numbers continue to grow.

Saving Paper! Saving Ink!



Saving Printing Costs!

Saving Mailing Costs!

Being good stewards

Request this newsletter via e-mail and receive it monthly as a PDF attachment.

## Last Call!

### International Catholic Stewardship Council Annual Conference

Every year the ICSC offers an opportunity to network with stewardship leaders from the United States and other countries. This year the conference is in Toronto, Ontario, Canada from October 27-30. Contact the Office of Stewardship Development for more information and registration forms. The cost of the conference when registered through our office is \$440 prior to July 19. After July 19 the cost increases to \$500.

Register **Now** and Save \$\$\$\$\$