

Parish Stewardship Update

July 2003

Diocese of Rockford
Stewardship Development Office
555 Colman Center Drive

Phone (815) 399-4300
fax (815) 399-5657

P.O. Box 7044

Bob Pfundstein
Director of Parish Stewardship

Web Site: www.stewardshiprockford.com Rockford, IL 61125 e-mail: rpfundstein@rockforddiocese.org

Try It, You'll Like It

One answer to "Our parish has already done stewardship..."

Haven't you heard parish leaders say those words often? The next few words usually take on some form of "...and it didn't work for us" or "...and the people increased their giving but, how many times can you go back to the well?" Once again this fall, there will be regional meetings around the diocese to promote **Parish Stewardship 2003**. The theme this year is *Building God's Temple*. The focus will be on the temples God has given us and how we care for them.

The invitation is to all the parishes in the diocese. Last year we had nine parishes participate in the pilot program and this year the process is open to all. Those nine parishes followed the process as suggested and saw some

wonderful benefits. Income increased, which is a good sign, but also participation increased which is a better sign of long-term commitment. With more parishes participating this year, the level of energy and the enthusiasm of pastors and their people will create an exciting time of renewal for the parishes.

If your parish has not been contacted before the end of July, please contact the Office of Stewardship Development in order to learn more about the process and the time-table for the **Parish Stewardship 2003** appeal. Help your parish increase the participation of volunteers in sharing their time, talent, and treasure this year.

Building God's Temple

Parish Stewardship 2003

Good Stewardship ...

In The Spirit Of Giving...

The major fighting has ended in Iraq but many soldiers are still stationed there. We often forget that stewardship is a concept that applies to all of God's people, even if we don't agree with them in many situations. The men and women who are serving our country are performing the job that they have chosen. Our role as Christian stewards is to perform our duties as disciples. We must look beyond our personal feelings and agendas towards the agenda of Christ, to serve those in need.

One creative way that was published in a local news article referred to a group of men who chose to give of their time and talent by offering handyman services to the families of soldiers serving in the military. This group of men decided that if they were away from home for an extended period many of the regular maintenance tasks would not be accomplished. If the family of a soldier asked for some assistance these men would schedule time to take care of the problem. They began to think of the tasks that needed to be done at their own homes and offered to hang window screens, perform landscaping tasks, and other chores. If they are unable to perform the task they will help the family hire a reliable service. Since these men are mainly helping in their own neighborhood, there is the added benefit of building relationships with neighbors.

Going back to the U.S. Bishop's pastoral letter, they state:

As Christian Stewards, we receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord.

How are you living out your stewardship call?



Last Call!

2003 International Catholic Stewardship Council Annual Conference October 5 – 8 In Chicago

Every year the ICSC offers an opportunity to network with stewardship leaders from the United States and other countries. Contact the Office of Stewardship Development for more information and registration forms. The cost of the conference when registered through our office is \$475 prior to July 11. After July 11 the cost increases to \$575.

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