

Parish Stewardship Update

Diocese of Rockford

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Abundant Resources

Bob Pfundstein

When did you last check your available resources? Was it in the car as you checked your gas supply? Perhaps it was on your computer, as you looked for the amount of memory available. It might have been in your basement, garage, or storage shed searching for the spring and summer items. Often, we are looking for the item or time to fill a specific need and we search known areas where it might be found. I would like to suggest searching beyond your own areas to find what you need.

Recently, at a gathering of Stewardship and Development professionals from a five state area, I was overwhelmed by the resources that were shared. There were exceptionally creative materials for parish stewardship, diocesan stewardship, capital campaigns, planned giving, school development, and other topics. There were binders, posters, bookmarks, booklets, brochures, newspapers, pins and pens. Despite the abundance of written and physical resources each piece came with a story and at least one individual who could share their contribution with this gathering.

This meeting of people created not only a forum for sharing materials but also an opportunity to be affirmed and supported in our stewardship efforts and to be excited about the future.

In the past we have asked for materials from your parish stewardship events to be sent to our office. We have attempted to

keep those updated and have samples of good materials parishes are providing. When you call for some ideas or help regarding stewardship, we try to have recent and pertinent materials available for your use. Please consider sending a copy of your stewardship materials to our office.

I have found that many of you are placing stewardship information in your parish bulletins and newsletters. A copy of your bulletin once or twice a month would be

greatly appreciated as it helps me to know a little more about the life of your parish.



What resources do you have to share with others?

When we look around, most parishes have been practicing stewardship activities for many years. It is time we recognize and talk about those practices as a normal part of our everyday parish life. As you sit in church this weekend before Mass, look around and begin to appreciate the abundant

resources that surround you. The many gifts of time and talent that have been shared by fellow parishioners are astounding. If your parish has a gathering for coffee and doughnuts after Mass, choose one individual and tell them how you have shared your gifts during the past week and ask them how they have shared theirs.

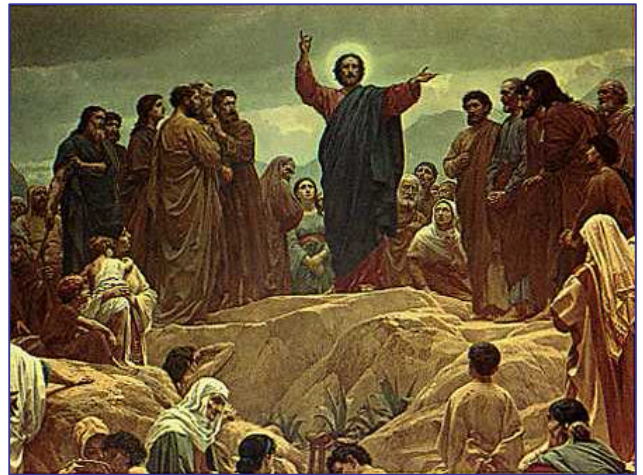
We are constantly surrounded by God's goodness. This goodness is seen in all of God's stewards. Everyday, let's appreciate our abundant resources.

International Catholic Stewardship Council Annual Conference

Every year the ICSC offers an opportunity to network with stewardship experts from the United States and other countries. This year the conference is in San Diego, California from September 16 – 19. Contact the Office of Stewardship Development for more information and registration forms. We have a limited number of program flyers for those who would like to attend. The cost of the conference when registered through our office is \$390 prior to July 1. After July 1 the cost increases to \$450.

Register Early and Save \$\$\$\$

The Virtue of Charity...



The Sermon on the Mount

No act of devotion on the part of the faithful gives God more pleasure than that which is lavished on his poor. Where he finds charity with its loving concern, there he recognizes the reflection of his own fatherly care.

In these acts of giving do not fear a lack of means. A generous spirit is itself great wealth. There can be no shortage of material for generosity where it is Christ who feeds and Christ who is fed. In all this activity there is present the hand of him who multiplies the bread by breaking it, and increases it by giving it away.

From a homily by St. Leo the Great (+641)

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There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.

- Albert Einstein