

# Parish Stewardship Update

## May 2002

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## Planning for the Children

by Bob Pfundstein

Sometimes we forget that small steps in teaching children about stewardship make major strides in the families of our parishes. The following excerpt from the Newsletter of St. Mary Parish in Byron discusses the progress they have made in creating a stewardship attitude among their children's programs. Thanks to Marilyn Hermann and Beth Murbach for the information.

"Stewardship is a way of life. In order for our children to live as disciples of Christ we need to teach them how to share their time, talents and treasures. We incorporate this teaching in our Religious Education program in a variety of ways.

At Christmastime, our Confirmation students put up our Christmas tree and decorated it with tags for needy children from our community. Our students and parish families donated 100+ new toys and gifts that were distributed by People Helping People.

In January, our students participated in the Heart-to-Heart project sponsored by The Junior Observer and the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. The children donated \$2 apiece along with a decorated double-heart. The money was sent to a diocese in Peru and the hearts were distributed to poor Catholic students in the same diocese. The children were then able to turn their hearts in at their churches and receive food, school supplies or items their families needed. Our students donated \$244

with many beautifully decorated hearts to the project. What a fantastic response!

During Lent, we collected \$430.53 for the Heifer Project. Through the Heifer Project, we have an opportunity to help impoverished families become more self-reliant by offering the gift of livestock and the gift of training in livestock care. Animals produce food, wool, fertilizer, and help with farming. Their offspring are then given to another family in need, which is called "passing the gift." The cycle then repeats. Our students are always very generous with our Lenten project.

Six times per year, youth from St. Mary's serve dinner at the Rockford Rescue Mission. We always have an abundance of volunteers, which speaks volumes about the youth in our parish. This opportunity to serve the underprivileged has been an important learning experience for all those who have participated.

We have, also, started planning for a "Mission Day" so students may better understand how poverty affects children in other parts of the world.

Look for this date on the 2002-2003 Religious Education calendar.

Parents are role models and the primary educators of their children. We are grateful to the parents and parish community for supporting our outreach projects."

**What are your plans for Children's Stewardship?**



# 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. 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 \$440 prior to July 19. After July 19 the cost increases to \$500.

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



Enjoy the  
season!  
Plant  
good  
stewardship  
seeds.

## Good Stewardship

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

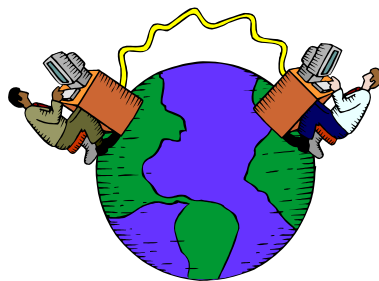
# In The Spirit Of Giving...

**Do you remember the Wizard of Oz?**

**Remember when the color suddenly appeared after the movie began in black & white?**

**Would you like to see the colorized version of this newsletter?**

Visit our website at [www.stewardshiprockford.com](http://www.stewardshiprockford.com)



and click over to *Parish Stewardship* and then *Monthly Newsletter* and then any month you would like to view.

If you like what you see and you would like to be a good steward of resources, e-mail me a note indicating that you would like to join over 160 others who are receiving this newsletter on-line. It saves paper, ink, printing costs, and mailing costs. Thanks for continuing to support our office. More importantly, thank you for your stewardship leadership personally and at your church.

