

Parish Stewardship Update

May 2003

Phone (815) 399-4300

fax (815) 399-5657

Web Site: www.stewardshiprockford.com

Diocese of Rockford
Stewardship Development Office

555 Colman Center Drive

P.O. Box 7044

Rockford, IL 61125

Bob Pfundstein

Director of Parish Stewardship

e-mail: rpfundstein@rockforddiocese.org

Living As Stewards

Summer Stewardship

Adapted from "Come Follow Me, Too!"
Stewardship Program for Children

Summer is a time of recreation and relaxation. It is a time of family vacations and reaching beyond our everyday routines. It may well be the most difficult time to be focused on our faith life as there are fewer activities that bind us to our faith communities.

It is an opportunity for each family to formulate for themselves an individual stewardship action plan which serves them well. Using the following themes and activities, create an action plan for your family.



The Liturgical Themes of Summer and "Living as Stewards":

June

- ✦ The Body and Blood of Christ
- ✦ Vacation Bible School programs
- ✦ Go make disciples
- ✦ My grace is sufficient for you
- ✦ Proclaim from the housetops

July

- ✦ The sending of the Apostles
- ✦ Time and Talent commitments begin
- ✦ The loaves and fish
- ✦ My yoke is easy, and My burden light
- ✦ Bear fruit in your rich soil

August

- ✦ Corpus Christi
- ✦ Be kind to one another and compassionate
- ✦ Taste and see the goodness of the Lord
- ✦ The keys to the Kingdom
- ✦ The Living Bread

Summer Stewardship Activities:



Family/School

Examine types of Prayer as an everyday activity, and as a means to deepen our faith. Ask why we need to pray. Start a family Prayer chart. Consider music as Prayer at home and during the liturgy.



Faith Community

Assist with the cleaning of the church grounds or yard or home of someone who cannot complete these tasks alone. Make a commitment to do this on a regular basis. Discuss why it is important to assist others in this manner.

Grocery shop or provide meals for those who need assistance with these tasks.



Beyond Our Borders

Participate in an existing "back to school" supply purchase program for the less privileged or begin one in your parish.

Good Stewardship ...

One of our readers sent me an update from their parish. Their focus earlier this year on time and talent offered some encouraging results.

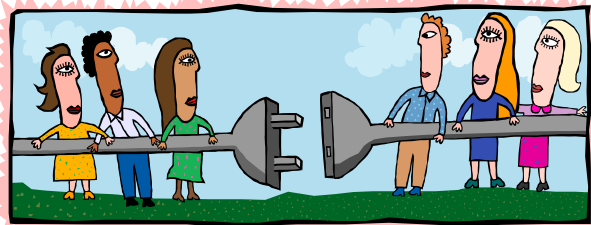
"The parish of St. John's presented our first annual Ministry Fair on the weekend of February 15th and 16th. The theme we chose was 'Give your heart to God' and we played off of the Valentine's Day publicity.

The results to date have been great. The ministries took their invitation seriously and 34 of our 39 ministries participated in the event. It was a great symbol of unity for our parishioners. The parishioners were pleased and we had 318 volunteers sign-up. This is a wonderful response. Many of the volunteers had not been involved before and many who had been involved requested information and signed up in new ministries.

Our Pastor and the Stewardship Committee are thrilled with the participation and look forward to working with all those who are choosing to offer their stewardship of time and talent."

The most positive aspect of this note is not the numbers or percentages of participation but the tone of those responsible for the appeal. There was a joy surrounding the words. There was a sense of fulfillment in the efforts undertaken. There was also a feeling of relief about a task undertaken for the first time and completed successfully.

I find that it is often the small victories that change the way people understand and share their gifts and make the connections to faith. Stewardship has a lot to do with the way we live our discipleship, even in the smallest ways.



In The Spirit Of Giving...

This column is written from your shared stories. They don't have to be wildly successful events to warrant sharing the ideas with others. I encourage you to send me some of the little ways you are seeing stewardship make a difference in your parish, diocese, or personal life. Please let me know if you would like your name or parish name published. I will respect your decision.

Have a wonderful Easter season.

2003 International Catholic Stewardship Conference

**October 5 – 8
In Chicago**



This conference gives priests, parish leaders and diocesan leaders an opportunity to listen, learn, and communicate the basic experiences of living as disciples. There are general sessions and breakout sessions in seven tracks designed to offer some practical and theological insights for everyone who attends.

The tracks are:

- ✓ Beginning Parish Stewardship
- ✓ Advanced Parish Stewardship
- ✓ Stewardship Elective
- ✓ Diocesan Stewardship & Development
- ✓ Diocesan Director Forum
- ✓ General Elective
- ✓ Spanish – El Nivel en Espanol

Registration forms will be mailed to all those interested as soon as they are available.

Please contact our office to have a copy mailed.