

Parish Stewardship Update

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Stewardship Business

by Bob Pfundstein

Large businesses often have a company policy for donating time and talent through volunteer opportunities and for donating treasure through matching gifts or outright gifts to charitable institutions. Often these policies are very strict in which organizations are eligible for donations of company monies and volunteer time. While there are many worthy causes with legitimate needs for both volunteers and funds, often the policies exclude churches.

Many small businesses, striving to stay in business, don't have a history of making donations while others have made sharing their gifts a vital part of their business plan. Recently, in reviewing some files in the office I came across the following clip from a newsletter from New Jersey.

Tithing Goes To Sunday Dinner

A beautiful restaurant in the air conditioned enclosed mall of a shopping center might be the last place you would expect to find evidence of tithing. But there it is, at one of the finest restaurants in Hayward, California, and a showplace of one of the area's shopping centers.

Two brothers, the owners, are members of the Greek Orthodox Church and staunch believers in the practice of tithing. Besides their own tithing on personal income, they've gone a step further. Every Sunday they stand a little church next to the cash register. On the roof are

these words: 'We will tithe on your Sunday dinner. Write the name and address of the church of your choice on the back of your sales slip and we will donate a full 10% of the full amount to the church you designate.'

As one of the brothers expressed in a letter sent to local pastors, it is their way 'to show our esteem and

appreciation for the wonderful spirit created by the various churches in the Hayward area.'

As I read through this, I could not help but think of the many business owners who are part of our parish communities. How do they express their example of faith to their employees through their business ethics and practices?

If you own a business:

- ✓ Are your employees aware of your faith commitment?
- ✓ Do your company policies reflect your Christian beliefs?
- ✓ Do you treat both employees and customers with respect?

If you are employed:

- ✓ Does your employer know about your church affiliation?
- ✓ Is the way you act at work and the way you represent your company reflective of your faith?
- ✓ Are you patient in your dealings with customers?

There are many different ways to live out the stewardship way of life. One of the most important is how each of us lives faithfully. In our daily work as an employer or employee, the Gospel message of stewardship should resonate with all the people with whom we come in contact.

In our parishes, many business owners advertise on the church bulletin. Our challenge is to use the resources available to us and support those businesses that are willing to "stand a little church next to their cash register."



**Parish Stewardship Day
2001
featuring**

**Bishop
Morneau**



**Is coming
To**

**Christ the Teacher Parish
In DeKalb**

**Mark your calendar for
Friday November 2nd
Or
Saturday November 3rd**

Good Stewardship ...



Includes sharing with those in need

Send some of your parish or personal sharing stories so they can be published to

inspire others.

**It's not too late to
register and attend one
of the Regional
Stewardship Witness
Workshops.**

**You are welcome to come and bring
at least one friend to learn more
about the process of preparing a
stewardship witness talk for you,
your parish or other parishes.**

**Workshops will run from 7 – 9 pm
Locations and dates are:**

**Tuesday
August 28 Holy Cross, Stockton**

**Thursday
August 30 St Rita, Rockford**

**Tuesday
September 4 St Mary, Woodstock**

**Thursday
September 6 Sacred Heart, Sterling**

**Tuesday
September 11 St Peter, Geneva**

God's Witnesses

**" All individuals are called to
present themselves before the Lord
and listen to the unfolding of God's
story from within."**