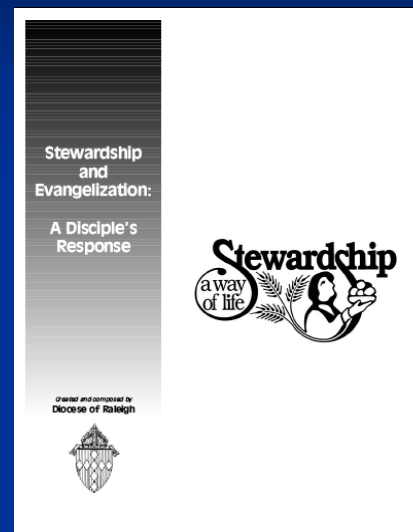
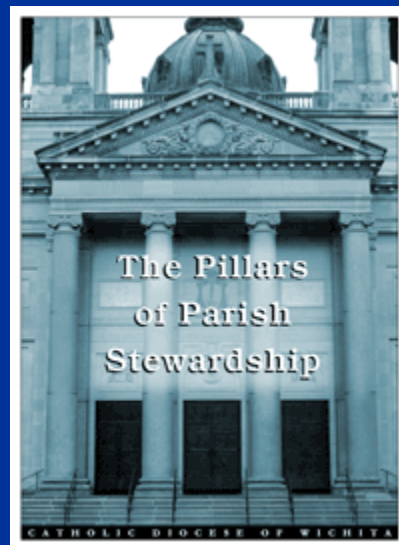
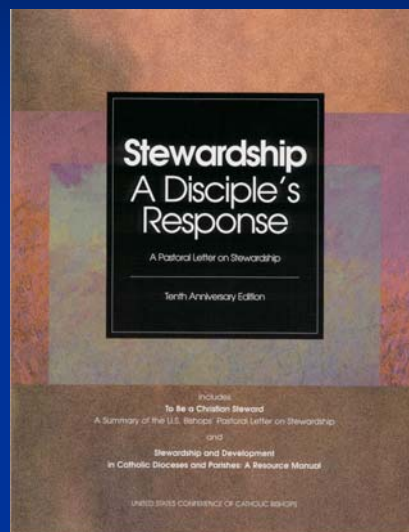




# Characteristics of a Stewardship Parish



# Resources



# A Stewardship Parish...

- **Stewardship: A Disciple's Response** states that stewardship is a vision of a sharing, generous, accountable way of life rooted in Christian discipleship.
- **This vision is supported by numerous characteristics including:**
  - **Public Commitment by Parish Leaders**
  - **Stewardship Committee**
  - **Spiritual Formation and Education**
  - **Total Prayer Life**
  - **A Place of Warmth and Hospitality**
  - **A Parish with Vibrant and Growing Ministries**
  - **Comprehensive Communications**
  - **Personal and Community Accountability**

# Public Commitment by Parish Leaders

## ■ First Impressions

- Grounds
- Buildings
- Signage
  - Mass times
  - Directional



## ■ Pastoral leader(s) and staff exemplify stewardship

- Respect parishioners as “partners in ministry”
- Collaborative atmosphere

## ■ Empowerment

## ■ All are welcome

- New and old parishioners
- Multicultural
- Handicap accommodating
  - Physically impaired
    - Ramps
    - Seating Accommodation
  - Sight impaired
    - Large print and Braille worship aids, missals, hymnals
  - Hearing impaired
    - Sound enhancement equipment
    - Sign language
  - Homebound
    - Homilies/readings mailed, recorded and/or posted to web site
    - Eucharistic Ministers visit





## ■ Parish Outreach



# Stewardship Committee

- Members exemplify stewardship
- Formed by the teachings in the 1992 U.S. Bishop's Pastoral Letter, **Stewardship: A Disciple's Response**
- Common Vision
- Constant communication/education
  - Within community and committee
- Annual Stewardship Ministry Orientation
- Annual Review/Evaluation

# Spiritual Formation and Education

## ■ Mass

- Homily
- Vibrant Choir encourages assembly's sung prayer
- Lay Witnesses
- Recite stewardship prayer



### *Our Lady of Lourdes Stewardship Prayer*

*God, our creator and giver of all good gifts,  
we praise you and we thank you  
for the gifts you have bestowed upon us.*

*Nourish our hearts with the spirit  
of Christian Stewardship  
so that we may share  
generously and joyfully  
the gifts we have received.*

*May we reflect our love for you  
by providing for the needs  
of our sisters and brothers.*

*We ask this through Our Lord,  
Jesus Christ your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the Holy Spirit,  
one God Forever and ever.*

*Amen*



## ■ Stewardship is taught at all levels

### ■ Children

- Stewardship curriculum
- Envelopes
- Teacher stewardship orientation



### ■ Youth

- Serve in parish ministries
- Outreach projects

### ■ Adult

- Evangelization and RCIA efforts
- Adult Faith Formation
  - Stewardship curriculum



## Total Prayer Life: Prayer Unites Us With God

Prayer is as necessary to our souls as food is to our bodies. St. Alphonsus de Ligouri wrote:

“... What profit is there in sermons, meditations and all the other means pointed out by the masters of the spiritual life, if we forget to pray? Since our Lord has declared that He will grant His graces to no one who does not pray.”

# Total Prayer Life

- Personal and Family Prayer
  - Giving back time to the Lord means spending time with Him each day in prayer
  - Spend time reflecting on each of the chapters in the Pastoral Letter
- Church/School
  - Mass
    - Prayers of the Faithful
  - Celebration of the sacraments
  - Eucharist feeds and challenges us
  - Sense of Gratitude
  - Conversion
  - Adoration Chapel
  - Scripture Reading/Faith Sharing



# A Place of Warmth and Hospitality

“When I was a stranger, you welcomed me.” (Mt. 25:35)

## ■ Welcome

- Easy registration
  - Update form
- Personal Invitation
- Welcome committee
  - Welcome packet/gift
  - Personal visits
  - Personal invitation to participate
  - Welcome reception quarterly
    - Welcome coffee and donuts weekly
  - Welcome those fallen away
  - List in bulletin



## ■ Mass

- Greeters
- Visitors welcomed
  - Invited to welcome coffee
- Introduce self before Mass starts

## ■ Social Activities

## ■ Called by Name

## ■ Express Appreciation

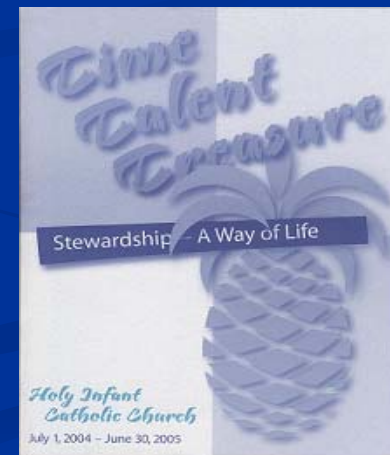
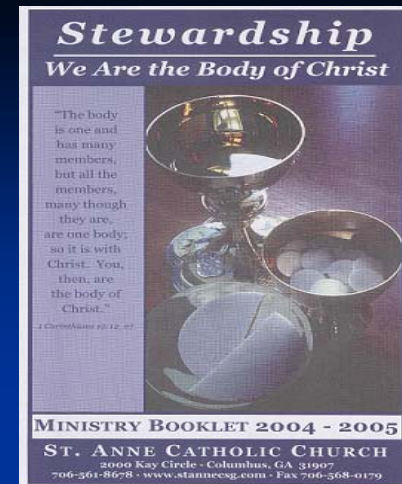
- Events
  - Annual dinner
- Monthly ministry thank you letters
- Recognize in bulletin
- Blessing/Commissioning





# A Place with Vibrant and Growing Ministries

- Our ministries are growth and diversity oriented
  - We have a global focus
  - “Can-Do” Attitude
- We educate our parishioners about our ministries through
  - Updated Ministry Catalog
  - Job Descriptions and Expectations
  - Lay witnesses
- Participation is a result of
  - Personal invitation
  - Prompt Follow up



- We Recognize our Ministries Through an Annual Stewardship Fair (Time and Talent Fair)
  - Highlight all Parish Ministries
  - Health fair
  - Children's events
  - Serve Food



# Comprehensive Communications

- Mass
  - Homilies
  - Prayers of the Faithful
  - Lay witnesses
  - Ministry Witnesses
- Town Meetings
- Catholic School weekly flyers
- Web site
  - Podcasts of homilies, highlighting a good steward, helping people become aware of ministry opportunities, etc.
- Banners



## ■ Bulletin

- Stewardship news
- Help wanted
- Message from Pastor/Pastoral Administrator
- Stewardship Saturdays
- Recognize stewards
- Recognize ministries
- Children's envelopes
  - Share stewardship stories

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- Brochures/Letters
- Surveys/Results
- Financial Reporting
  - Weekly offertory update
  - Quarterly update in bulletin
  - Annual report to homes
  - Financial Accountability
    - Monthly list sample expenditures



## Stewardship Corner

God's Plan for Giving		
Offertory Collection		
1st week in June		
Last Year		\$ 17,806.33
This Year		\$ 20,798.93
2nd week in June		
Last Year		\$ 14,283.29
This Year		\$ 23,652.42
Fiscal Year-to-Date Col- lections		
July 1, 2003 - May 31, 2004		\$ 989,659.28
July 1, 2004 - May 31, 2005		\$ 992,134.60

<b>Revenues</b>	
Faith Formation Registration	\$ 4,000
First Communion Registration	\$ 2,000
Vacation Bible School	\$ 1,200
Outreach Project Income	\$ 300
<b>Total Budgeted Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 7,500</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Catechumenate	\$ 150
Liturgy of the Word	\$ 600
Faith Formation	\$ 2,500
Vacation Bible School	\$ 1,500
Generations of Faith	\$ 1,500
Volunteer Training	\$ 300
Library	\$ 100
Baptism	\$ 250
First Reconciliation	\$ 250
First Communion & Retreat	\$ 2,150
Supplies	\$ 750
Outreach Project Expense	\$ 300
<b>Total Budgeted Expenses</b>	<b>\$10,350</b>



# Accountability

- Accountability



There are several other

# A Parish that Embodies Stewardship Experiences:

- Evangelization at its best
- Full pews
- Renewed respect and yearning for the sacraments
- Superb spirit of welcoming and hospitality
- Flourishing ministries with willing lay ministers
- Tithing and proportional giving
- Deeper spirituality
- Outreach to the wider community
- Nurture and encourage vocations of all types

**Be the Best You Can Be**

**Don't Expect Perfection**

**Get Started!**