

Eight Characteristics Of A “Stewardship Parish” In The Diocese Of Rockford



1. Parish should create a stewardship commission. *The commission should be formed by the teachings in the 1992 U.S. Bishops’ Pastoral Letter, Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response which makes the connection between the evangelization / conversion process and the people’s use of their time, talent and treasure.*

2. Parish should have ongoing educational activities that instruct the parish membership throughout the year in the Church’s teachings of stewardship. *This should include themes from the 1992 Bishops’ Pastoral Letter and the readings from the Liturgical cycle.*



3. Within the context of the Church’s teachings on stewardship, parish should conduct an annual stewardship of time and talent renewal to encourage parishioners to share their gifts as a faith response and as a way to meet the ministry needs of the parish and local community. *Pastoral leaders should empower the laity to discern and contribute their variety of gifts in the service of parish ministries and church vocations.*

4. Within the context of the Church’s teachings on stewardship, parish should conduct an annual stewardship of treasure renewal to encourage parishioners to share their material gifts as a faith response and for the support of the parish ministries. *The learning objectives for parishioners would include encouraging parishioners to embrace the biblical tithe and to give in a planned and sacrificial way. A current Catholic interpretation of this type of giving is for people to give 5% of their income to the parish, 1% to the diocese and 4% to other charities.*



For assistance and resource materials to help you integrate these characteristics into your parish, contact the
Office of Stewardship Development
Diocese of Rockford
(815) 399-4300



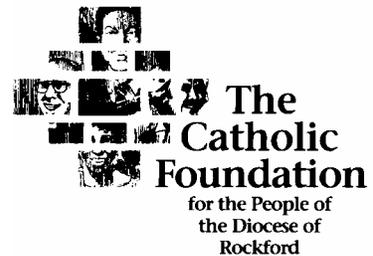
5. Parish should strive to incrementally move toward the elimination of second collections, special envelopes and special fund-raisers for expenses related to **normal** parish operating activities and ministries. *Annual celebrations or festivals should mainly exist for the purposes of building community, not fund-raising.*

6. Parish should contribute a portion of their Sunday offertory collection to poor parishes in this diocese, our own diocesan social ministries and worthy community, regional, national and international programs that further the plan of God on earth. *This practice will provide an example to the parish community of the type of proportionate giving that the leadership is encouraging its members to assume.*



7. When parish leadership is conducting a campaign for **extraordinary** capital improvements / repairs, new building project or debt reduction, these types of projects should be presented to the people within the context of the Church's teachings and practices of stewardship. *There are excellent examples of how some parishes in our diocese are integrating the teachings and practices of stewardship into these types of projects.*

8. Parish should promote the stewardship of assets and endowment awareness among parishioners for the long-term financial benefit of the Parish, Diocese, and Universal Church. Parish shall establish an endowment account in the Catholic Foundation. *Endowment awareness would include education for the stewardship of assets and encouragement for bequests through wills and other planned giving instruments. The creation of an endowment committee is encouraged.*



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