



# To Serve in the Parish Community and Beyond



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# Building a Strong Foundation

- All is Gift
- We respond with gratitude and action
  - “Mature disciples make a conscious, firm decision, carried out in action, to be followers of Jesus Christ, no matter what the cost to themselves.”
  - “Stewardship is an expression of Discipleship, with the power to change how we understand and live our lives.”

*Stewardship a Disciple's Response, Pastoral Letter on Stewardship*

# Building a Strong Foundation cont'd

- “Who is a Christian Steward? One who receives God’s gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others and returns them with increase to the Lord.”  
*Stewardship a Disciple’s Response, Pastoral Letter on Stewardship*
- The Nature of “The Call”
  - Unique individuals, not a faceless crowd
  - People do not hear God’s call in isolation from each other
    - I.e. Andrew brought his brother Simon to Jesus, and Jesus called Simon to become the Rock on which He would build his Church

# Building a Strong Foundation cont'd

- Christian Stewards commit to ministry, not just volunteer opportunities

“...this commitment is expressed not in a single action, nor even in a number of actions over a period of time, but in an entire way of life.”

*Stewardship a Disciple's Response, Pastoral Letter on Stewardship*

# Minister vs. Volunteer

Evidence shows that when parishioners view their activities as ministries, they will be more dedicated to them, spend more time on them, and – as a happy by-product, because of their heightened involvement – contribute more to support their parish financially.

Charles Zech, *Why Catholics Don't Give.. And What Can Be Done About It*

# Focus of Stewardship

- Gratitude
- **Intentional, planned and proportionate giving**
- **Unique gifts**
- First fruits
- **Time spent with God in prayer and sacrament, then in service to others**
- All aspects of our lives
- Putting God First
- **Trust in God**
- **Proactive**

# Focus of Stewardship

In a parish with a strong foundation and understanding of what stewardship is and the proper focus on stewardship, ministries expand to meet needs.

# Prayer is at the Source of Service

- Where is God calling you to serve?
  - Pray about it on your own or in small groups and then do something
    - i.e. Cursillo



# Promoting Gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure to the Parish – 7 Steps to Success

- 1) Personal Witness
- 2) Commitment of Leadership**
- 3) Hospitality, Engagement and Outreach**
- 4) Communication and Education
- 5) Recruiting, training and recognizing gifts of time and talent**
- 6) Stewardship of treasure
- 7) Accountability

*Stewardship a Disciple's Response, Pastoral Letter on Stewardship*

# Commitment of Leadership

- Pastor
  - Staff
  - Pastoral Council
  - Ministry Leaders
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- Leaders take people where they wouldn't go on their own
  - You can take a horse to water, but you cannot make him drink... but you can make him thirsty

# Remember

- Service is “other” focused
- Develop a culture of thinking about others and paying attention to others

# Parish Hospitality Challenge

- Take me to those in need prayer
- Think of others
- Look out for a connection
- Say “hello”
- Notice gifts and encourage their use
- Keep in touch with those who are hurting
- Pray for others
- Invite others to participate/attend
- Have hope filled conversations
- Thanks

# Gift/Talent Discernment

- Gallup research shows that if you spend 2 hours using your strengths, you will make an exponential difference
- Those same 2 hours trying to improve an area of weakness will make an incremental difference
- Some calls to service take true “talent” i.e. singing
- Some calls to serve just take time ie. Salvation Army buckets and bells at Christmas time

# Ways to Serve

- Parish
- **Local**
- Regional
- **International**

# Ideas of Service and Ministry

## Local Level – St. Therese Parish Thanksgiving Dinner

- Begin fundraising in March, raise between \$6000-\$7000 – if you can't do, give
- Press releases in local papers and deliver flyers to all local churches (Fall)
- Use sign-up genius website for those who want to serve. Approx. 65 people serve the day of (some volunteers just come to sit with those eating so no one sits alone)
- Offer take out and have people take meals to homebound, police stations, fire stations, hospitals, etc.
- All leftovers delivered to the homeless shelter on Friday
- Fed 1,600 people in 2016 (third year of event)



# Ideas for Service and Ministry

- International Level – Blessed Trinity Parish Uganda Mission

It started in 2003 with a picture of a stick church in Sr. Juliet's hometown of Nalweyo, Uganda and a promise to build a much needed bigger church.

Sister Juliet works at Blessed Trinity parish ministering to the sick.





# Since 2004 they have:

## Purchased:

- 25+ Acres
- 30 Wells
- 25 Water Tanks
- Over 11,000 solar lamps
- Computers for the school labs

(If you can't go, give)

## Built:

- 30 churches with a capacity ranging from 300-1000
- 1 convent
- Blessed Trinity grade school
- Trinity Catholic high school (Phase 1&2)
- St. Peter & Paul school
- 4+ sub parish schools
- A 21 bedroom staff house
- A 4 bedroom teacher house
- Priest's house
- 3 married teacher duplexes
- 4 dorms
- Kakinda Clinic





Service is most effective when it fits in  
a broader stewardship effort in a  
parish

# Responsibilities of a Stewardship Committee

- Develop an Annual Plan
- **Prepare a time and talent listing or catalog of parish activities (keep it current)**
- **Provide opportunities for gifts discernment**
- **Carry out the stewardship effort of time, talent and treasure on an annual basis**
  - Lay witness speakers
  - Ensure that those who are interested in joining ministry are contacted and invited
  - Develop a commissioning service
- **Show appreciation to those involved with parish ministry**

# Responsibilities of a Stewardship Committee cont'd

- Educate and evangelize
  - Parish leaders
  - Faith formation programs for children, teens and adults
  - Children's offerings
  - In-service and continuing education to stewardship committee
- **Develop a hospitality or welcoming program**
- Communicate
  - Parish bulletin, brochures, newsletters, homilies, prayers of the faithful
- Evaluate the annual plan each year
- **Expand your focus beyond the parish**

# Handouts

- Focus of Stewardship
- Thanksgiving Meal Info – St. Therese Parish, Mooresville, NC
- Uganda Mission Info – Blessed Trinity Parish, Ocala
- Responsibilities of a Stewardship Committee
- Commitment Samples – St. Ann Parish, Charlotte and Blessed Sacrament, Wichita
- Adult Catechesis – St. Matthew Parish, Charlotte
- Stewardship Effort Timeline – Archdiocese of Seattle