

Task Team

Priority: Stewardship

Our Vision

To live a Christ-centered fellowship, on fire with the love of God and neighbor, to see individuals, families, parishes, and our schools working together to build up the Kingdom of God in West Tennessee.

Our Mission

Living the anointed life in Word and Sacrament.

Priority

Stewardship: We manifest the Eucharistic Life through our generous and intentional stewardship of all God's gifts.

Suggested Ideas

Action Step #1: Introduce stewardship with the lens of time, talent and treasure to the parishes through the established councils if possible. Includes education, planning, promotion and organization.

- Identify spiritually motivated parishioners who live stewardship to assist the pastor (if no pastoral or finance council exists)
- Develop an annual plan containing one stewardship action item per month. Can be new or existing events but promoted/taught through the lens of time, talent or treasure for God
- Compile accurate/up to date lists of all parish organizations, leaders, activities and volunteers to be used for communications, "thank you's", and future volunteer needs
- Provide promotion and leadership with #iGiveCatholic and the Annual Catholic Appeal. Provide fiscal year-end report on the state of the parish to include stewardship report.
- Educate clergy through study weekends for deacons (Deacon Leadership) and continuing education for priests (Committee for Ongoing Formation of Priests)

Accountability: Stewardship Task Force (through Parish leadership, Deacon Leadership and COFC)

Timeline: January - May 2025

Cost: Time, minimal printing costs and cost of bringing in speakers for priests (\$2000) and deacons (\$2000)

Action Step #2: Renew Diocesan Annual Stewardship Appeal evangelizing the importance of stewardship – five month campaign:

- September - **Kickoff** (Stewardship): Invitation to participate from Bishop David.
- October - **Emphasis on Talent:** Catholic Charities Appeal
- November - **Emphasis on Treasure:** #iGiveCatholic campaign: funded by the Diocese and available for all parishes, schools and ministries to participate.
- December - **Emphasis on Time.** Advent/Christmas - when there is so little time, focus on small things.

Accountability: Office of Development/Diocesan Offices

Timeline: August - December 2025

Cost: \$40,000 (high estimate for printing materials for all parishes)

Action Step #3: Continue ongoing Stewardship efforts

- Providing ongoing support to the parishes through ideas and implementation of monthly stewardship actions/activities such as stewardship reflections on the Sunday readings, Stewardship saint spotlights, special Masses offered throughout the year (Ordinations, Anniversary)
- Provide Parish fiscal year end Stewardship report (due December 2026 from each Parish). Reports to include financials, sacraments offered, successful ministry spotlights, etc.
- Provide Diocesan Stewardship report (due December 2026). Report to include diocesan financials, ACA, facilities, Catholic Foundation of West TN, SPP successes, etc.
- Brainstorm to provide ways to incorporate new ideas for each Stewardship Appeal focused on youth, college students, and young adults, sister parishes, stewardship of creation, stewardship of vocations, stewardship of cultures, stewardship of hospitality, etc. (2027)

Accountability: Stewardship Task Force/Office of Development

Timeline: 2026-2027

Cost: Estimated two-year cost of stewardship subscription \$2000

Appendix

- a) **Stewardship** - The reflections from the Bible and teachings of saints emphasize the connection between stewardship and discipleship. Calling the faithful to accept life as a gift and the Holy Spirit's role in spreading the Gospel. Good stewards find joy in returning blessings, drawing strength from the Eucharist. Stewardship is seen as expressing love for God and others, with everyone called to discern their unique vocation. Jesus' teachings guide stewardship, emphasizing trust, accountability, and service. Stewards collaborate with God in creation, care for life and the environment, and serve the Church community. Christian stewardship entails trustworthiness, generosity, and love, echoing the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Stewardship embraces a way of life, and thus becomes a lifestyle. It calls upon us to realize we are not owners of our time, talent and treasure; rather, we are stewards, called upon by God to manage our gifts by being responsible to God, who entrusts them to us.

- b) **Time** - Time is the most fundamental gift without it all others fail. Time is the duration of life that God gave us.
- c) **Talent** – Talents are gifts and strengths God has nurtured within us. Talents are like a plant and should be cared for to bloom, then flowers shared with everyone. We all possess a unique talent that is a gift from our loving Creator. In gratitude for these gifts, He asks us to share these talents with others.
- d) **Treasure** - Treasure is what we earned through our time and talent. Treasure is giving generously to the one who had given so generously to us – our lives and His Son's life. We are called to give of our first fruits in gratitude. We must examine what we have been given and determine a plan so we can do our part to share what God has given us with others.