

# Building a Culture of Stewardship That Engages All Ages







# YOUR EXPERIENCE?

*What contributes to  
people embracing  
stewardship as a way of  
life in your parish or  
diocese?*



# OUR SHARED VISION



“Stewardship is an expression of discipleship with the power to change how we understand and live out our lives.”

(SDR, introduction)





# OUR SHARED VISION

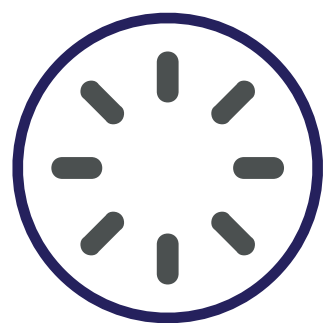


Draw people to Christ through the parish community, leading them to live as grateful disciples who are growing as good stewards.





# COMMON ELEMENTS



## Hospitality

Think beyond the doors of church. Help people to feel at home at your parish. Fuel warmth. Strengthen relationships.



## Belonging

Show care. Have empathy. Help people offer their gifts in new and profound ways. Stretch yourself and your community.

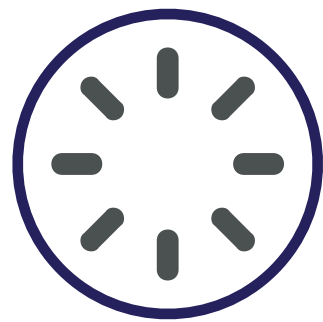


## Witness

Share Christ's love, person-to-person. Live Eucharist. Sacrifice. Be "best neighbors."



# COMMON ELEMENTS



## Formation and Communication

A spirituality of stewardship requires ongoing conversion which relies on consistent formation. Share the message in all ways and everywhere.



## Discernment and Commitment

Stewards are committed to Christ and to nurturing and sharing the gifts that have been entrusted to them.



## Ministry and Service

Stewards give their lives, talents, time, faith, financial and material resources in service, especially to those most in need.



# THE PIECES DON'T ALWAYS ADD UP

Even with all the elements in place, parishes often

Get stuck

Reach a plateau

See limited impact





# SHAPE PARISH CULTURE

“God has created me to do him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which he has not committed to another.” - St. John Henry Newman



- Vision
- Values
- Principles
- Strengths





# HAVE A CLEAR VISION

## Your WHY Fulfilled

- Aspirational
- A stretch, yet attainable
- Reference point





# ARTICULATE YOUR PRINCIPLES

- Enduring
- Clear
- Unchanging





# DEFINE YOUR VALUES

- Core convictions
- Flow from principles
- Drive consistency with vision
- Set \*beneficial\* boundaries
- About who you are as a community





# LIVE YOUR

## Individual and Communal

- Parish life
- Ministries
- Ways of serving



# SHAPE PARISH CULTURE THROUGH A SPIRITUALITY OF STEWARDSHIP



- Principles:
  - Discipleship
  - Stewardship
  - Gratitude
  - People in God's Image
  - Call/Vocation



# SHAPE PARISH CULTURE THROUGH A SPIRITUALITY OF STEWARDSHIP



- Values - Examples:
  - People of all ages and stages of life and faith on journey with Jesus
  - Every person is called, must be given opportunities to contribute
  - No “insiders” and “outsiders”
  - Parish is good steward



# SHAPE PARISH CULTURE THROUGH A SPIRITUALITY OF STEWARDSHIP



- Strengths:
  - Individual talents and gifts
  - Communal strengths such as worship, outreach



# LEAD PARISH CULTURE

Leaders go first!

- Advocates

Bring message to others

- Think concentric circles

Who do you need to encourage?

Provide formation and designate time





# LEAD PARISH CULTURE

Be persistent and consistent

Address inconsistencies

Highlight living stewardship

Express gratitude





# LEAD PARISH CULTURE

Always be discerning!

Prayer

Rooted in Scripture

Listen intentionally

Spoken and unspoken

Constantly stretch toward vision





## Building Parish Culture of and through Stewardship



**Your Community's Vision:**

Principles Unchanging, Enduring, Clear	Values Core Convictions, Beneficial Boundaries	Strengths Individual, Communal	Leadership Who? How?
Discipleship			
Stewardship			
Gratitude			
People in God's Image			
Call and Vocation			

Discern first areas of focus. Create a plan (who, what, how, evaluation).







# Your Partner in Ministry

Complementary Resources  
Workshop slides, videos, and worksheets



Workbook  
Mentoring  
Masterclasses



[GratefulDisciples.net](https://GratefulDisciples.net)

Stewardship Formation  
Email blasts, websites, bulletin  
Homily connections  
Meeting outline

October 2023

# Impact

Bring faith to life. Find life in faith.

**THE BASICS.**  
Sometimes it is good for us to get back to basics. At home, we might set aside time for dinner and conversation rather than family members rushing off to separate activities. In our lives of faith, Jesus says we are called to two foundational actions: love God, love neighbor.

**LOVE NEIGHBOR.**  
Loving our neighbor is the way in which we show our love for God. When we love God with our whole being, we understand that our neighbor is a child of God, one who is God's prized possession, just as each of us is. The truth is that every person is created out of love, for love. As Christ himself taught us, whatever we do for the least among us, we do for him. Loving our neighbor is, after all, our greatest act of faith, of discipleship, and of stewardship.

**LOVE GOD.**  
Love God, love our neighbor. It sounds so simple. And yet, we know that it is anything but simple. Loving God and neighbor requires commitment. Loving God requires us to place our trust in One who cannot be seen and yet knows us better than we know ourselves. Loving God calls us to order our lives in relationship to God and God's ways, the way of self-giving love. When our heart is centered on God, we will see ourselves as uniquely created, God's very own. When we love God with all our soul, we find peace in the midst of turmoil. When our mind is focused through faith, we seek what is good, right, and just before all things.

**IT'S TIME.**  
Most of us have thought about these things many times in the past, but may have done little to change our routines, behaviors or habits. One of the reasons the three-year Lectionary cycle of readings is so helpful is that we hear passages like this again and again. We hear and reflect on God's word in light of the very real circumstances of our lives. Think for just a moment about what was happening in your life three years ago. Surely you heard the Sunday readings differently than you do now. The gospel passages we hear this month challenge us to not be passive recipients of God's gracious love. Let this be the year we take Jesus' two great commandments more fully to heart, and act accordingly: love God, love neighbor.

**TAKE THE CALL TO HEART.**  
What would our lives look like if we really took to heart the two intertwined commandments that Jesus places before us? Would we re-order our days in order to spend time with God in prayer? Would we become more attentive to the needs of others? Might we recognize our talents as gifts from God, and more readily give the gifts back, with increase, at home, in our parish, and the world? Would we consider that the way we spend time, money and attention are signs of our priorities?

"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Bear good fruit that endures.

