

GRATEFUL DISCIPLES

Bring Stewardship to Life in Your Parish



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CATHOLIC  
LIFE & FAITH

Our Plan for Today

- Foundations of a Spirituality of Stewardship
- Discipleship, Stewardship and Evangelization
- Six Steps to Form Grateful Disciples
- Forming Stewards as Missionary Disciples



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Created in God's Image,  
Called to Holiness

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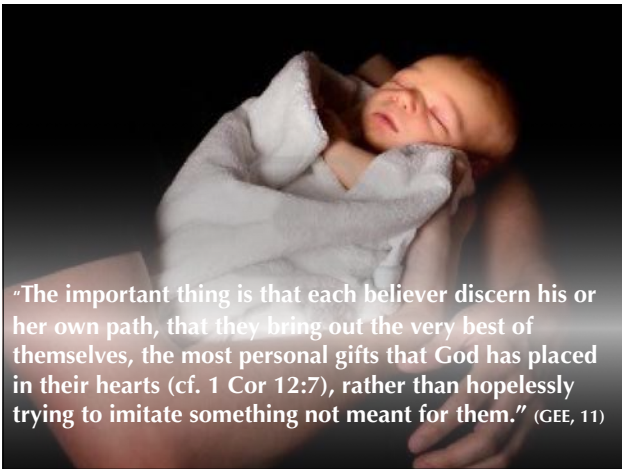
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"The important thing is that each believer discern his or her own path, that they bring out the very best of themselves, the most personal gifts that God has placed in their hearts (cf. 1 Cor 12:7), rather than hopelessly trying to imitate something not meant for them." (GEE, 11)

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Humans in the image and likeness of God

"The transparency through whom God is seen."

Collaborators with God in the continuing task of creation

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"In this way, led by God's grace, we shape by many small gestures the holiness God has willed for us, not as men and women sufficient unto ourselves but rather "as good stewards of the manifold grace of God" (1 Pet 4:10)." (GEE, 18)

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All  
is  
Blessing!

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All is Blessing!  
Entrusted to Us  
Called to  
Steward Well  
Grow in  
Gratitude

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***What is Your Story?***

***What comes to mind for you? How is the call to discipleship and stewardship a "game changer" for you and your parish?***

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Things you don't expect to hear from the back seat...



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*"Once one chooses to  
be a disciple,  
stewardship  
is not an option."*

*(Bishop John McRaith,  
SDR, Preface)*



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*...Beginning in conversion,  
change of mind and heart,  
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.*

*It means committing one's  
very self to the Lord.*

*(SDR, Introduction)...*



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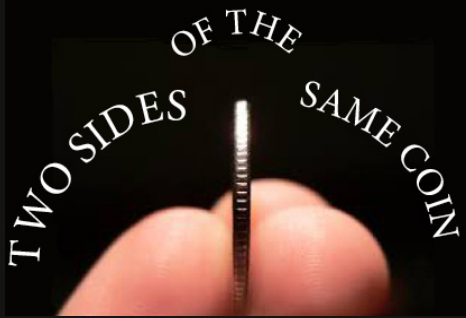
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# EVANGELIZATION AND STEWARDSHIP



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"To make the Church the home and school of communion...a spirituality of communion also means an ability to think of our brothers and sisters in faith...as 'those who are a part of me.'"

—Novo Millennio Ineunte, 43

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Belonging within the community does make a difference!



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 **Let's Focus!**

“What is your vision? From what can you learn or upon what can you build?”



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The Vision: Stewards in Community

Establish the vision of the parish as a community of disciples and stewards

Stewardship throughout the year

Grateful Disciples: Forming Stewards in Community © Catholic Life and Faith

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"To attempt to be stewards on our own or even with the help of the community will ultimately be futile. We need the power of the Holy Spirit to rise above our pettiness and self-centeredness in order to be for and with others as Jesus was. Without prayer, a life of stewardship will not last." — Bishop Robert Morneau, Paths to Prayer

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**GRATEFULDISCIPLES**

**Step One**

**The Vision:  
Stewards in Community**

- Everything we are and have comes from God
- We learn to respond in gratitude
- Such gratitude is nurtured within the community of believers

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**Lead Grateful Disciples**


Pastor

Stewardship Committee

Wider Parish Leadership

Build on One Another's Talents

Servant leaders who entrust ministry to parishioners



Grateful Disciples: Forming Stewards in Community © Catholic Life and Faith

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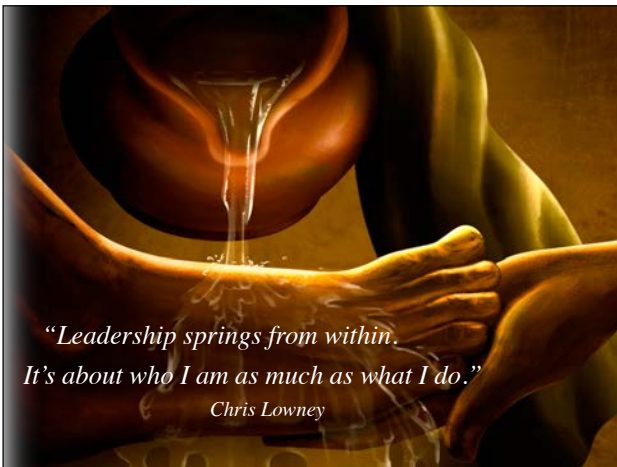
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*"Leadership springs from within.  
It's about who I am as much as what I do."*

Chris Lowney

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**GRATEFULDISCIPLES**

**Step Two**

**Lead Grateful Disciples**

- Pastor
  - Living Witness
- Commission/Committee
  - Fostering and sustaining stewardship
  - Always attentive!
  - Lead change
- Pastoral Council

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**Form Disciples as Stewards**



Discipleship  
Faith Formation  
Evangelization

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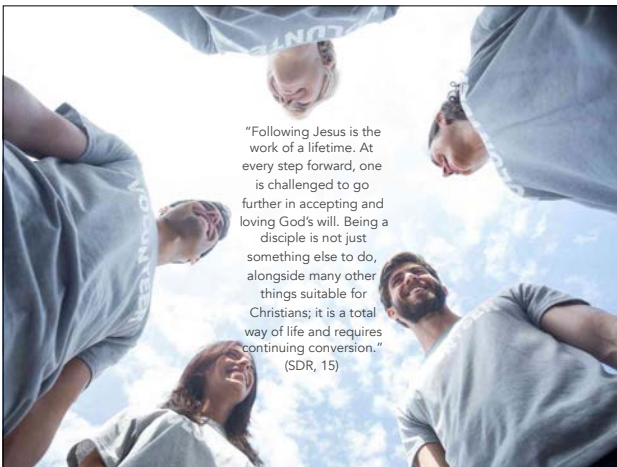
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“Following Jesus is the work of a lifetime. At every step forward, one is challenged to go further in accepting and loving God’s will. Being a disciple is not just something else to do, alongside many other things suitable for Christians; it is a total way of life and requires continuing conversion.”  
 (SDR, 15)

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**GRATEFUL DISCIPLES**

**Step Three**

**Stewardship Education and Formation**

- Always tied to discipleship
- On-going
- Every age and stage of life and faith
- Rhythm of liturgical year

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**CATHOLIC LIFE & FAITH**

**Quick Share!**

“ Name one example: How does your parish form people to live as disciples in their daily lives? ”

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**Welcome and Engage Everyone**

**The Parish Community Really Does Matter!**

Create a climate in which people are more likely to hear the message of stewardship

“Belonging leads to believing!”

Touches people in their daily lives The parish is “home.”

Grateful Disciples: Forming Stewards in Community  
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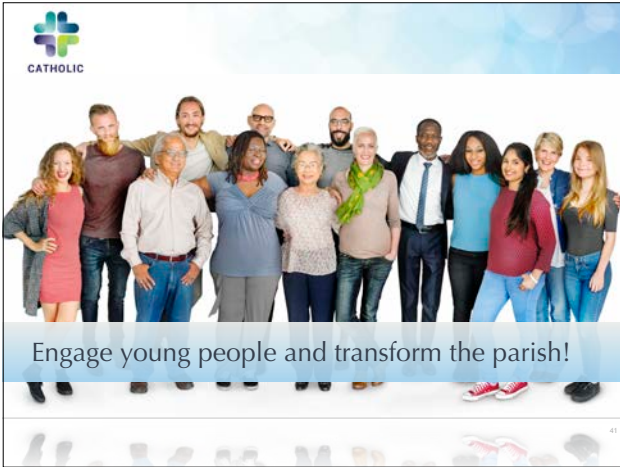
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**GRATEFUL DISCIPLES**

**Step Four**

**Welcome and Engage Everyone**

- Hospitality and Welcoming are key
- Build Community
- Expectations
- Needs
- Parish Culture

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**Your Experience**

When have you faced a challenge for which you did not feel equipped? What made the task difficult for you? How did you complete the task?

When have you faced a challenge for which you knew you had just what was needed? Upon what within yourself did you draw? What was the result?

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## Commit to Annual Renewal



### On-going Rhythm within the Liturgical Year

Commitment to Christ and the Church  
Personal and Communal Reflection  
Invite Participation in Ministry

Spiritual Renewal — brings faith to life



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"But how is the Church built up?  
In a sense there are as many  
answers to that question as there  
are individual members with  
individual vocations. But the  
overarching answer for all is this:  
through personal participation in  
and support of the Church's  
mission of proclaiming and  
teaching, serving, and  
sanctifying."  
(SDR, 31)

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**Step Five**

**Commit to Annual Renewal**

- A spiritual process with practical implications
  - Connect life with faith
    - Time, Talent, Treasure +
- Transforms individuals and the community
- Follow-up is essential

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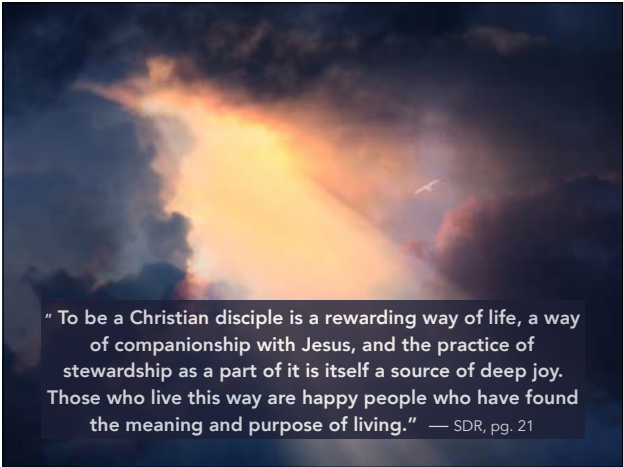
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" To be a Christian disciple is a rewarding way of life, a way of companionship with Jesus, and the practice of stewardship as a part of it is itself a source of deep joy. Those who live this way are happy people who have found the meaning and purpose of living." — SDR, pg. 21

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 **Growing as a Community of Stewards**

- Greater engagement
- Increased involvement
- Naturally evangelizing
- Deeper spirituality
- Separate wants from needs...
- People have a need to give
- Willingness to be challenged
- Joy!



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Immaculate Heart of Mary: 1995

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Building a Community of Disciples Who are Growing as Good Stewards

### Construction!

Attention to our physical and spiritual needs



God Bless  
Our Church.  
May we always  
follow your light!  
Debbie + Tom LeMaster  
Michelle Holly  
Allison

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## Immaculate Heart of Mary: 2007



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### Evidence: a 12 year snapshot

- Members
  - Registered households increased by 22%
  - Median age:
    - 1999: 46
    - 2008: 31



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## Your Partner in Ministry

- ♥ Live and Virtual workshops and training
- ♥ Leadership development
- ♥ Consulting and Partnering
- ♥ Stewardship, Evangelization, Engagement and Strengths



Bridge2Faith.net



CatholicLifeandFaith.net

PRESENTATIONS & CONSULTING • LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING • NETWORKING & PEER-to-PEER SHARING • ONE-to-ONE or PASTORAL TEAM COACHING

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