

The Foundational Principles of Stewardship

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Parish Stewardship Team Formation Activities

Designed to help your Stewardship Team, Pastoral Council, and Parish Community grow in faith.

Formation Activity #1: The Lay Faithful as Priest, Prophet and King

Christ conferred on the Apostles and their successors the duty of teaching, sanctifying, and ruling in His name and power. But the laity likewise share in the priestly, prophetic, and royal office of Christ and therefore have their own share in the mission of the whole people of God in the Church and in the world.

DECREE ON THE APOSTOLATE OF THE LAITY – Second Vatican Council
Chapter I - **THE VOCATION OF THE LAITY TO THE APOSTOLATE**

Activity Goal: For the stewardship team and pastoral council, (at their own meetings) to discuss how well is this principle understood and/or being lived-out in the lives of parishioners?

Discussion Questions:

How am I living Christ's mission as priest, as prophet, as king?

How are members of the parish community living Christ's mission as priest, as prophet, as king?

Give examples for each.

Following your separate meetings perhaps then, the PPC and Stewardship Team should come together to share what they have discussed. Possible discussion points:

- Is the baptismal priesthood well understood? Why or why not?
- What can be done to improve the understanding and response of our community?
- What could we do in our liturgy to get this across?
- What could we do in the bulletin or website to educate?
- What kind of community event could we have that could be used to celebrate how we live this?
- What's one project the parish could undertake to deepen this in the lives of parishioners?

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Formation Activity #2: Our Baptism in Christ

Activity Goal: For the stewardship team and pastoral council to engage the community in re-visiting and re-claiming what it means to be baptized in Christ?

Initiatives could include:

- An in-pew questionnaire
 - What does my baptism mean to me?
 - Where do I experience it in my life?
- An evening workshop on re-claiming our baptism
- A parish website survey

Discussion Questions for PPC and the Stewardship Team:

What do parishioners think of their baptism?

How can we make the link between baptism and stewardship in liturgy, the bulletin, or website?

What community events could be planned to help us grow in our appreciation of the gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

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Formation Activity #3: Giving Thanks

Activity Goal: For the stewardship team and pastoral council to reflect on the virtue of gratitude, for this virtue is at the heart of stewardship... an attitude of gratitude.

We believe that Mass or Eucharist is about giving thanks to God. How often do we hear the word thanks in the Mass?

One Sunday, have some members of the PPC and Stewardship Team keep track of how often the word thanks is used and when it is used and what for. Then, come together at a future meeting and discuss the results and ask the following questions:

- What are we thanking to God for?
- Why does the Church urge us to give thanks in this prayer?
- How do we integrate thanksgiving in the Mass with gratitude in our daily lives?
- If we work on being thankful during the events of our daily lives how will it affect our experience and participation at Mass?

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Formation Activity #4: Giving with No Strings Attached

Activity Goal: For the stewardship team and pastoral council to engage themselves and the community in exploring the spirituality of giving. We want the parish to see that Christian giving better reflects the love of Christ, and is more effective when; it is done out of gratitude and with love, not out of obligation or duty, and is done freely with no expectations of something in return. Is there an activity that could be done at the parish to get this across? Could we create something that could be done at home?

Invite parishioners to reflect on what it means to them to give or receive gifts from other people. The stewardship team and pastoral council should also have this discussion.

Discussion Questions for PPC and the Stewardship Team:

- What appears to be a common experience or thread in the stories shared?
- What is my attitude towards giving gifts?
- Do I give freely, or do I place conditions or expectations on my giving?
- Do I give out of duty or love?
- When is it hard to give?
- How am I with receiving gifts?
- Do I like getting gifts? Why?

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Formation Activity #4: Faith Out Loud

Activity Goal: For the stewardship team and pastoral council to engage the community in understanding that evangelization is one of the two flanks of discipleship, stewardship being the other.

There is an advertisement for the Catholic Church on the internet from a group called catholicscomehome.org – a creative example of how we can promote and witness to our faith.

Activity: Stewardship team members and pastoral council members are invited to come up with an advertising campaign for their parish to invite others to come to the Church.

Discussion Questions for PPC and the Stewardship Team:

- How are we going to get the message out about our parish/Church?
- What media could we use?
- Which would be the most effective?
- What will we share about our faith?
- What are we convicted of as a parish?

Invite members of the parish to comment and share, maybe over a potluck supper or at coffee after Mass.

Could it work? If so why? If not, why?

Is this worth pursuing and how might our parish benefit from the exposure?