

# ***“The Spirituality of Stewardship”***

## **DVD Formation Series**

Forming the mind and converting the heart to become a Christian steward is a life-long journey of faith. This is true for the individual, the family, the parish, the diocese, as well as for the Universal Church. During this journey, it has become very clear that formation precedes service. One must first be formed in the spirituality of stewardship prior to being sent into service in the parish and beyond. Jesus Christ spent three years in ministry forming his disciples before he sent them out into service two by two, (cf. Luke 10:1-3). The Diocese of Wichita embraced the journey of stewardship as a way of life in 1985.

Upon his arrival to the Diocese of Wichita in 2005, Bishop Michael Jackels assigned an important task to the Diocesan Stewardship Council. Define what is meant by the word, “stewardship.” As the Bishop rightly pointed out, “You cannot form what you cannot define.” After prayerful reflection and discussion, the Council presented to Bishop Jackels the following definition: *Stewardship is the grateful response of a Christian disciple who recognizes and receives God’s gifts and shares these gifts in love of God and neighbor.* This definition mirrors closely the definition of a Christian steward as defined by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in their 1992 Pastoral Letter, *“Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response.”*

To form the parishes and families throughout the diocese in this definition and meaning of stewardship, the DVD formation series, entitled, ***“The Spirituality of Stewardship”*** was born. The primary purpose is to explain the definition of stewardship given above. Accompanying the DVDs is a facilitator manual which gives very specific instruction on how a person can facilitate this formation series in the parish setting. Each session begins with a prayer that is found in the manual. Then, the group watches 30 minutes of a DVD. Following this, there are specific activities that can be chosen for the participants, strengthening a grasp of the material that was presented in the DVD. This small group work also allows the parish to “customize” the formation to their particular parish family. Each of the four sessions is designed between 60 and 75 minutes.

Three years were invested into this project, including designing the content, piloting the series live in actual parishes, filming and editing the DVDs and the writing of the facilitator manual. The facilitator manual contains master copies of all of the handouts. When one purchases the formation series, permission is granted so that unlimited copies of the handouts may be photocopied for use by the parishioners.

The first group in the parish that is encouraged to participate in this formation is the Parish Stewardship Council along with the Pastor. After their training, the members of the Stewardship Council will assume the responsibility of facilitating this series with all of the leaders of the parish ministries and organizations. Once formed in the spirituality of stewardship, these parish leaders can implement the spirituality into the actual service of each parish ministry / organization, or parishioners in general.

As stated above, the series “breaks open” our diocesan definition of stewardship. Because the “textbook of stewardship” is the Word of God found in Sacred Scripture, the formation series uses many Scripture quotations. As a student takes a textbook from school to home, one needs to know that the “school of stewardship” is the Mass, especially the gathering of the entire parish family at the Sunday Mass.

It is our main desire to assist parishes throughout the diocese and beyond to form parishioners to become Christian stewards. If you order this series and, (after reviewing the contents), decide not to purchase the manual, we only ask that you return the manual to the Diocese of Wichita and cover the return shipping cost. If you have questions or are interested in ordering ***The Spirituality of Stewardship*** formation series, please contact the Office of Stewardship at 316-269-3900 or by email at [loughman@CatholicDioceseofWichita.org](mailto:loughman@CatholicDioceseofWichita.org).