

STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL 2011

OFFICE OF STEWARDSHIP DIOCESE OF WICHITA

2011 Theme: Sharing God's gifts in love of God and neighbor



The 2011 Stewardship Renewal Poster with the theme: "Sharing God's gifts in love of God and neighbor."

In 2007, Bishop Jackels requested a clear, teachable, easily remembered, concise 25-word or less definition of stewardship. The result:

"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."

Lay Witness Talks..... REALLY?!!

Lay witness talks are powerful!!!

They inspire and provide a "face" to the Stewardship Way of Life., without which Stewardship becomes only about money or volunteers.



A lay witness talk should be a personal story/talk, based upon Scripture providing an invitation to practical ways of becoming

involved in the life of the parish.

Parishioners connect through stories. When and how stewardship became important in a families life, as well as the joys of being a steward are interesting, relatable stories.

A stewardship story is not: "I did this... we did that..." Rather it is a testimony of how gifts are recognized and placed at the service of God and neighbor.

In three succinct phrases, Stewardship is explained. For three years, each phrase has been highlighted culminating in this year's 2011 theme reminding us the committed action of "what to do" and "why:"

At the Eucharistic sacrifice and celebration we give thanks to God concluding with the bishop or priest giving the final blessing, concluding with , "The Mass is ended, go in peace to love and serve the Lord."

In doing so, he might as well say: "You have responded to God with gratitude, recognizing and receiving God and His gifts at this Mass, now GO, and share them in love of God and neighbor!"

Attending Mass is wondrous indeed, but if we never left the church building to share what we received, we would look silly sitting there forever. From the textbook of Stewardship, the Holy Scriptures, we read James reminding the early church: "*For just as a body without a spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.*" (James 2:26)

Sharing God's gifts in love of God and neighbor is the life-giving spirit to a steward.

Our poster this year depicts this life-giving action: the procession from the Mass to go and share God's gifts, in love of God and neighbor. A necessary and natural response to what has occurred at the Holy Eucharist.

Dates to Remember:

9-18 Publish newsletter/bulletin article on stewardship

10-2 Bulletin Announcements for Renewal to begin

10-10 pick up T-T-T forms, prayer cards from chancery.

10-16 select lay witnesses

10-24 distribute T-T-T forms to all parishioners

11-6, 13, 19 Pastor's homilies and lay witness talks on Stewardship

11-20 Stewardship Commitment Sunday!!!

This years theme of "Sharing God's gifts in love of God and neighbor" will provide an easy manner for parishioners to share their stories.

Lay Witness talks should not replace the homily, but might be given after the homily. Other ideas are before Mass or prior to the closing of Mass. 3-5 minutes is long enough and be sure it is written. On the backside of this newsletter are some practical ideas based on this years theme of what to say.

Practical applications for Lay Witness Talks:

Here are some ideas for your lay witness recruits to base their talk on:

November 6, Matthew 25: 1-13 The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Bridesmaids

What specific opportunities does your parish provide for parishioners to share their gifts? Perhaps target a ministry or two, such as the Saint Vincent de Paul Society or Adoration Chapel.

Lay Witnesses could speak about how they did not think a particular gift of theirs would ever be used and how pleased and thankful they were to be able to share it.

November 13th, Matthew 25: 14-30 The Talents

Parishioners seek the parish as a primary community to serve. When a parishioner finds they can serve and be ministered to in their parish, they have little need to search elsewhere. Lay witnesses could speak about how they found their parish such a place, and some practical ways to seek service opportunities.

Lay Witnesses could speak about how they too were afraid of what little gifts they felt they received from God, but how through service in the parish, they recognize they have more gifts than first realized.

November 20th, Matthew 25: 31-46 Separation of the sheep from the goats

Lay witnesses could speak answering the following questions:

- What opportunities does the parish provide in serving others outside the parish boundaries through the corporeal and spiritual works of mercy?
- What surprised you the most in participating in these ministries?
- How by serving others outside the parish do you see yourself serving the parish?

Commitment Sunday is November 19-20, 2011



**Now you asked them,
what do you do?
Witness talks October 30th,
November 6th, and 13th**

Ideas for Lay Witness Talks

Before: Gather the invited speakers to a social to discuss this year's theme and what could be shared. Be sure to read the Sunday's Gospels too!

Basic outline for a talk:

- I. Introduce yourself
- II. Define stewardship and this year's theme
- III. Give a short testimony (see above suggestions)
- IV. Remind parishioners to complete their Renewal 2011 forms and return

V. Thank you!

Suggestions in giving the talk:

1. Write it out. Double spaced so you can read it.
2. Have pastor read it.
3. Have family and/or friends read it.
4. Practice, practice, practice. Practice even in the church during the week with the microphones.
5. Don't be afraid. Breathe and let the Holy Spirit speak through you.