Definition of Stewardship

A Christian Steward is one who received God’s gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others and returns them with increase to the Lord.

US Catholic Bishop’s Statement from “Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response

IN OTHER WORDS:

Receive God’s gifts gratefully-

What have I been given?

Develop God’s gifts responsibly -

What might be?

Share God’s gifts lovingly -

How can I use them?

Return my gifts to God with increase -

What can I give?

Witness Speaker Outline and Check Off List:

- Introduce yourself with a brief description. Explain what stewardship means to you. (1 minute)
- Tell your story. How do you decide the dollar amount to give to your parish? How does it tie in to Stewardship? (3-4 minutes)
- How does it make you feel to give back to God? (1 minute) humble - blessed - faithful - fulfilled - grateful
- You or the Pastor/Presider may do the ‘Ask’. Check with Stewardship coordinator. Some good words are: Today I am asking every one of you to make a commitment to Stewardship of Treasure in our parish. You will find Treasure pledge cards and pencils in the pew. As I fill out my pledge card, I ask each of you to prayerfully fill out one as well. How much should you give? Ask yourself:

‘What is the amount that expresses my gratitude for all that God has given to me?’

The answer to that question is the proper amount to pledge to your parish.

Thank you!
Why Witnessing?

People relate far more readily to God’s blessings than to a parish budget. When motivated to give out of gratitude and justice, they begin to give the gift God really wants: THEMSELVES!

Emphasizing church needs encourages minimal giving. Emphasizing the ‘need to give’, maximizes both giving and its spiritual benefits: DEEPENED FAITH AND CHRISTIAN JOY.

Suggesting that Parish Stewardship is an obligation invites challenges we can never answer. It should be seen as an Act of Worship. Making it voluntary places it where it belongs. It is one of many things generous Catholics do -- not out of law, but out of love.

Witnesses and Witnessing

Witnessing in the Liturgy

Witnessing should be an integral part of the liturgy. As part of the community, the witness is someone whose daily life reflects the common joys and struggles of fellow parishioners. The best time for the witness presentation is immediately following the homily. The combined presentation of the homily and witness testimony should not last more than the usual time allotted for the homily.

The Spiritual Benefits

These outweigh all else. This, after all, is the fundamental reason for all of the Church’s work - not to raise money, but to touch people. Money is merely a means to that end. Properly presented, teaching about Parish Stewardship deepens faith and delivers a message that isn’t just about money, but also about the Gospel.

Answers to Witness Questions:

Why me?

Even though you may not be a public speaker, you are a fellow parishioner with a story to tell that others will respect and want to hear. That’s why you’ve been asked to be a Witness Speaker.

What Shall I Talk About?

A good place to start is your own personal journey to Stewardship with all of its ups and downs. Ask yourself, “How do I express my gratitude to God’s generosity?” Your own generous Stewardship is the best answer to this question. That and the journey you took to get there. Tell how it makes you feel to be practicing the generosity of Stewardship.

How will I know if it is a good talk?

Make a rough draft. Get feedback from the person who asked you to be a Witness Speaker. Make a second draft and get more feedback. Ask to practice your final draft in the church. Remember - You wouldn’t have been asked if they didn’t think you were able to do a good job.

For it is in giving that we receive;

St. Francis of Assisi