

St. Edward Stewardship

the language of our faith, spoken through our actions!

Stewardship – Fall 2009

Expressing gratitude to God is the foundation for Catholic stewardship. God is the source of all the time, talent and treasure that make up our lives. Thus, as disciples of Jesus, we are called to give thanks to God through a lifestyle that demonstrates that we take seriously our stewardship of the time, talent and treasure God has blessed us with. Catholic stewardship is a way of life inspired by God's goodness. In other words, stewardship is a lifestyle that puts God first in all things!

There are three basic stages to the maturation as a steward of God's gifts. First, one must become aware that he or she has received from God. We must find within ourselves the ability to realize that the time, talent and treasure we enjoy are from God. In this way, stewardship reveals how essential it is for us to acknowledge the generosity of God. Unless we are fully aware of having received blessings from God, we cannot be thankful for them. The second part of a mature spirit of stewardship is one's response to God's goodness and generosity. Just as is the case with a child receiving birthday gifts, the gift given by God isn't properly received until the giver is thanked. Catholic stewardship entails an intentional and committed choice to live a life in thanksgiving as a follower of Christ. Thirdly, by choosing to center your life in the Gospel, you become a mature disciple of Jesus and reveal God's Kingdom in the here and now.

Mature stewardship of God's gifts requires Christian conversion in the deepest sense. We come to appreciate that our time, talent and treasure are gifts from God. In turn, as committed disciples, we freely return a portion of our gifts to help build up the Kingdom of God. It is in this spirit that the Stewardship Ministry has been working hard to prepare for our 2009 stewardship renewal program entitled *Stewardship – Sharing God's Gifts*. As part of this program, on the weekend of September 19-20, we will celebrate **Stewardship Recommitment Weekend**. All members of St. Edward's parish are invited to renew their commitment to St. Edward's, to each other, and to God through service to His people. Each parish family will receive a Stewardship Renewal letter containing both a list of all the ministries each family member has committed to in the past as reflected in the parish records, and a Recommitment Card. Each family member is asked to sign the Recommitment Card and come to Mass on Recommitment Weekend ready to present this card as an offering to the Lord and your parish. On Stewardship Recommitment Weekend, baskets will be available at the doors of the Church to receive the Recommitment Cards as you arrive for Mass – should you forget to bring yours, blank cards will be available for you to sign and place in the baskets. At the Offertory, these cards will be brought forth with the other gifts and placed in front of the altar as a symbol of our recommitment to God, to our parish, and to each other. As we embark on this new year in our stewardship journey, let us recommitment to being good stewards of the gifts God has given. In this way, we grow stronger in our faith and reveal evermore the greatness of our good God!



Welcome Table Spotlight

Last fall we began a program in which different ministries hosted the Welcome Table each month on Donut Sunday. This program had a twofold aim - giving each ministry a special Sunday when ministry members could meet parishioners and share information about their ministry, while at the same time involving all of us in the important task of welcoming new members into our parish family. The program was a huge success. Everyone enjoyed the variety of having a new host each month, as well as getting to know more about our different ministries.

Not all ministries had a chance to host and some ministries enjoyed the program so much they have asked to host again! Therefore, we are going to continue with this program. The host ministry will be announced in the parish bulletin the week before Donut Sunday and again on Donut Sunday. Those interested in hosting the Welcome Table or who have any questions about this program can contact any member of the Stewardship Ministry. With over 60 ministries in our parish, let's make Donut Sunday a truly special experience in 2009-2010!

Join Us

The Stewardship Ministry is always looking for people to help in its efforts. If you are interested in joining us, please contact the parish office or any member of the Stewardship Ministry: Amy Amspaugh, Dave Conway, Ruby Hall, Nancy Hughes, Bev Knoderer, Bob Rodriguez, Suz Shook, Julie Waggoner, Merilee Wagner, and Whitney Wermter.