

Full Stewardship

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace” (1 Pt 4:10)

- Stewardship invites everyone to participate in carrying out the Mission of Immaculate Conception:

“Rooted in the Gospel of Christ and in the tradition of Catholicism and under the patronage of Mary Immaculate, we commit ourselves to be a welcoming community of faith, worshipping with generations of believers and serving God in all people”

Stewardship IS:

A Biblical term recognizing that we, as individuals, are not the owners of our lives, our time, our talent nor our treasure, but stewards or managers.

- A spiritual process of conversion.
- What we do with what we have because of what we believe.
- A way of life *for* life.
- Another way of Building Church
- A way of life based on the Sacred Scriptures.

Stewardship Background

In 1992, the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops published a Pastoral Letter on Stewardship, "Stewardship: A Disciple's Response." The heart of the message is that

"once one chooses to become a disciple of Jesus Christ, stewardship is not an option."

History at Immaculate Conception

In 2002 our parish Discipleship Committee was formed to lead the parish in implementing this vision of stewardship. Under their leadership, we have:

- held ministry fairs
- continued annual renewal of time, talent and treasure commitments
- initiated the Lenten prayer calendar
- enhanced our welcoming of new parishioners
- initiated the Tuesday Eucharistic Adoration
- began a quarterly parish newsletter

History Continued

Discipleship committee members attended various Stewardship Conferences:

- Boston – 2004
- Wichita – 2006
- Chicago -2008
- Contact with Blessed Trinity Parish in Ocala, FL -2006 and 2010
- Contact with Diocese of Wichita in 2010

**Formation of Stewardship Committee
in January 2010**

Representatives from:

- Pastoral Council – Dona Toenjes & Steve Raney
- Finance Council – Mark Altadonna
- School Board – John Whitworth
- Discipleship Committee – Maria Renner
- Parish Representative – Angela Creed, Helen Csik, John Waide
- Ex-officio members – Fr. Carl Scherrer & Mike Kish

Proposal

After a year of prayer, conversation, research and reflection, the Stewardship Committee recommends that:

Immaculate Conception Parish
of Columbia, Illinois,
continue progress toward:

“Full Stewardship.”

Full Stewardship

The concept of “Full Stewardship” implies that we would make an ever greater commitment of our parish energy and resources to becoming faithful disciples through returning the first portion of our time, talent and treasure to God through prayer, service and financial support.

Full Stewardship

- An Active Steward attends Sunday Mass
- Fills out a time/talent/treasure card **and** follows through on the commitments made on that card
 - Time is Who we Are.
 - Talent is What we Do.
 - Treasure is What we Have.

Full Stewardship Proposal

- Time, Talent and Treasure would be renewed at the same time, possibly the weekend before Thanksgiving.
Time and Talent would be together on one form, with a separate form for stewardship of Treasure for confidentiality purposes.
- The commitment of Time, Talent and Treasure would begin Jan. 1.
- There would be ongoing education to promote stewardship from the pulpit, in ICS and PSR classes, in all parish ministries and in the parish newsletter. Children's envelopes of Time, Talent and Treasure will continue to be available to K-8.
- New parishioners would be given a handbook explaining stewardship and a commitment card to complete.

Full Stewardship Proposal

- Parishioners would be invited and challenged to commit to give 5% of their income to the parish, and 5% to the Diocese, other charities and the capital campaign.
- There would be no checking of W2 forms (saved for God and the IRS)
- A semi-annual statement would be sent to all active stewards, accounting for their time, talent and treasure commitment.

This is done as a matter of justice to everyone, and also as a way to determine if a particular family needs the parish's assistance in some way if they cannot fulfill their commitment.

Full Stewardship Proposal

- Special envelopes and special collections would continue (St. Raymond's, Diocesan campaign, St Vincent de Paul, etc)
- Capital campaign would continue; this is over and above weekly contributions
- Those who contribute electronically will continue to receive envelopes so they have something to put in the collection basket.

Full Stewardship

- Full stewardship would be by invitation, with a presumption of good will, good faith and honesty, with the emphasis on equal sacrifice, not equal gifts.
- "How much do I have to give?"
From a stewardship perspective, the question is not, "How much do I have to give?", but rather, "How much do I need to give?"

Implications

- For Active Stewards, there would be:
 - No tuition for ICS
 - No tuition for PSR
 - No fees for use of parish facilities
- Families must turn in Time, Talent and Treasure commitment card in order to enroll in PSR and ICS.
- Non-parishioners would continue to pay tuition for PSR and ICS.

**Stewardship, the giving of our time,
talent and treasure should be:**

Planned: Our giving should be of a prayerful and planned process and examined annually.

Proportionate: Our giving should be based on what we have been given, and returned proportionately.

A Gift: Our giving should be unconditional with no strings attached, with nothing expected in return.

Sacrificial: our giving should come from the top of all that has been given to us. It should make an impact on our lifestyle and cause us to lead simpler lives.

In Gratitude: Our giving should be in joyful gratitude for the many blessings we have received from the Lord.

Open Forum

To that end, the committee presents
the Parish with the question:

Do we want to enhance our standing from
Stewardship to a Full Stewardship Parish?

Feedback

Submit comments in collection basket in an
envelope marked "Full Stewardship"

or

Contact one of the Stewardship
Committee Members

Please provide all comments by 2-21-2011
