
H O M I L Y

W H A T ' S I M P O R T A N T T O C O M M U N I C A T E

It is generally more meaningful and educational to consider giving separate homilies, one each weekend beginning with time, then talent ending with treasure. This process gives equal importance, as it should, to all three aspects of stewardship. The Pastor may choose to introduce the four pillars of stewardship: hospitality, prayer, formation, and service. See the suggested schedules for homilies for the four pillars.

Please refer to the scriptural resource section of this manual for biblical support in preparing a homily.

Pastors and associates should also mention and stress the importance of completion of the time, talent and treasure commitment forms and how those forms facilitate the parish stewardship process carrying out the mission of the parish, meeting its needs and making it possible for the parish community to be a place of prayer, hospitality, formation and service.

Stewardship is a way of life whereby we, as disciples, recognize that a person is not the absolute master of his/her own possessions. As stewards we are caretakers of all God's gifts. Gratitude for these gifts is expressed in prayer and worship and we are to share these gifts out of love of God, one another, our parish, diocese and the universal Church.

There are some that mistakenly feel that stewardship is only a gimmick for raising more funds for the Church. This is not so. Stewardship is based on the references in scripture to stewardship, and Jesus specifically talks about it in a number of His parables. By addressing stewardship directly, He made it clear how He wanted us to live. One of those ways is to become involved with others and share with them what we have, not only our treasure, but our time and talent as well. Stewardship is based on God's word, not on the fundraising needs of the church. Stewardship is based on an individual's need to give, not on the Church's need to receive.

Stewardship is based on the premise that all that we have and all that we are comes from God, and as a way to thank Him for all His blessings, we return to God a portion of the time, talent, and treasure allotted to us. A person's decision to give his or her time, ability and tithe/alms is based on his or her need to give, which is inspired by the Holy Spirit within us.

Giving of time, talent and treasure is not limited to the church (parish). Most people will also give of their time and talent as volunteers, where possible, to diocesan or community agencies in addition to volunteering in their parish. Most will also give financial resources to other community agencies in addition to supporting their parish.

It is important to stress the need of each individual's annual recommitment, giving, of time talent and treasure. In this way, parishioners are invited annually to prayerfully and conscientiously assess the gifts they have received from God and how they may plan to continue or change the generous and sacrificial return of those gifts in thanksgiving.