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ARCHDIOCESE OF SANTA FE

OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT

HANDBOOK

FOR

STEWARDSHIP WITNESSES



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HOW TO USE THIS HANDBOOK FOR STEWARDSHIP WITNESSES

A FACT: Research has shown that the best results from a parish Stewardship campaign come from the encouragement and ongoing of the pastor and the stories of stewardship witnesses from the parish itself.

PRE-WORK: Since the Archdiocesan Stewardship of Treasure Campaign is held in early November each year, Pastors/Stewardship Committees/Parish Finance Councils should review this Handbook over the summer to understand the qualities and role of the Stewardship Witness during this weekend. From this review, name enough parishioner couples or individuals (and a few more back-ups) to invite to take on this role at the Masses in your parish on Stewardship Weekend.

Once possible candidates have been chosen, determine who will invite them to this important ministry to the community and give each candidate a copy of this handbook (it is available online at www.archdiocesasantafegiving.org/development/) or you can request additional printed copies from the Office of Development, development2@archdiosf.org 505-831-8258.

IMMEDIATE PREPARATION: Once the witnesses have been chosen and they have read this handbook and the Archdiocesan Stewardship Brochure and Intention Form, invite them to read the stewardship resources online at the Office of Development website under the menu item "Stewardship".

www.archdiocesasantafegiving.org/development/. Then ask them to prepare a draft of their witness talk to the parish community.

Provide them with clear feedback. Imagine that you are in the pew listening to this. Does this witness talk reflect on God's gifts to this person and all of us? Does this person speak with an attitude of gratitude? Does this talk define stewardship as "a way of life for disciples of Christ" (see pg. 6 of handbook)? Does this witness tell the story of how this person/couple came to practice stewardship as a way of life? Does this witness invite the hearers to stewardship of time, talent and treasure in their own lives?

Once stewardship witnesses have developed a final version, meet with them in the church and rehearse with them. Make sure the microphone is on, so they can hear their own voice in the church space. Provide them with feedback on voice, posture, eye contact, gesture, etc. Make sure they know how they will get to the ambo and leave the ambo after their talk and any other specific instructions.

AFTER STEWARDSHIP WEEKEND: Consider publishing the lay witness talks (or parts of them) in your parish bulletin over the next several weeks with a thank you from the pastor and an invitation to parishioners to reflect on how they can make stewardship of time, talent and treasure more integral to their lives as Christians. Invite them to make a financial stewardship commitment for the next year by completing an Intention Form and dropping it in the collection basket.



THE POWER OF LAY WITNESSES

Most people expect the priest or deacon to talk about stewardship, but when someone who usually sits next to us—one of our neighbors—openly talks about being grateful to God and the life-changing effects of stewardship, it sends a very powerful message. We are motivated and encouraged most when we can relate to the speaker, especially one that speaks from the heart.

WHAT IS A LAY WITNESS TALK?

A Witness Talk is *not* a homily or a lecture—and, it is *not* a plea for money or volunteers. It is a story of real people leading regular lives. The extra-ordinary part is the personal conversion to stewardship as a way of life which can be very inspirational for the listeners.

IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL LAY WITNESSES

Criteria to look for in potential witnesses includes Catholics who:

- Are spiritually motivated and actively involved in the life of the parish.
- Demonstrate stewardship by their sense of gratitude to God and their personal concern for others.
- Give unconditionally without any expectation of return.
- Have made a firm decision and taken a step in faith on their stewardship journey.
- Are continually striving to be better stewards.

When choosing Lay Witnesses, be sure they are representative of the parish population—men, women, couples, singles, all ages and ethnic groups. High school age youth can be very effective Lay Witnesses, especially before a group of their peers. Like their adult counterparts, they should be fully trained and prepared to be lay witnesses to their peers.

HOW TO INVITE POTENTIAL LAY WITNESSES

The best way to invite someone to be Lay Witness is by personal invitation, preferably from the Pastor. The invitation can be in person, by phone, or in the form of a letter, but should always include enough information of what is expected. The person should be made aware of the purpose of a lay witness talk and the time commitment involved in preparing and delivering the message.

People who have been asked to give a Lay Witness talk are often concerned that they will appear to be braggarts. It's a natural reaction from a steward who has made "giving for the sake of giving" a way of life. Instead of thinking of your talk as self-promotion, consider it a **testimony to the Lord for all the blessings He has showered upon you, and as an invitation to others like yourself to come forward with their gifts.**

TRAINING (THE ROLE OF THE CLERGY & COMMITTEE)

The Pastor, Deacon (s), and Stewardship Committee are responsible for training and preparing the Lay Witness. Their role is to give them a copy of this *Handbook for Stewardship Witnesses*, encourage, affirm, and make suggestions, if necessary. They should provide background information, explain the logistics, and provide an opportunity for the Lay Witness to rehearse his/her talk before several people in the actual setting, i.e., at the ambo, with the microphone on.

PREPARATION BY THE INDIVIDUAL WITNESS

Following are guidelines for an individual preparing for a Lay Witness Presentation:

1. **Pray**—Begin by praying the Sacred Scriptures, especially those passages relating to stewardship. (*Stewardship Scripture References can be found on pages 9-10*).
2. **Meditate**—Consider how God has blessed you and Remember how and when you first realized that stewardship is part of what it means to be Catholic.

- Is there an event or occasion that stands out as particularly moving or life-changing?
- Is there someone who inspired you or who served as your mentor?
- What challenges have you faced in your stewardship commitment?
- Has overcoming those challenges been worth it?
- What positive effects has stewardship had on your spiritual life, family life, and personal growth?

3. Some Do's & Don'ts

DO (if it fits in with your talk)

- Explain that stewardship is giving of the “first fruits” not what is left over.
- Talk about the personal need of each Christian to give thanks.
- Stress “Many of you know from your own giving experience that what I have told you is true.
(*In thanks to those who are already generous.*)
- Stress the sense of joy and fulfillment that comes to those who give their time, talent, and treasure as a way of expressing their gratitude and trust in God.
- Talk about ***intentional, planned, and proportionate*** giving. Explain what it means to plan to give.
- Explain that stewardship involves not only church; it also includes family and community.

DON'T

- Talk in bargaining terms (*e.g. “I gave this much time and treasure and God gave me this in return.”*)
- Stress church needs and budgets.
- Talk in dollar or time amounts. (*“If everyone could give \$10 a week...”*)

DON'T - continued

- Use threats of possible consequences stemming from the failure to give. (*“We won't be able to air condition the church.”*)

4. Write Out Your Talk—Use the basic structure below using your own style, wording, and delivery.

- Introduce yourself.
- Briefly define stewardship. (*A Christian steward is one who receives 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.. Taken from: Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*)
- Share your personal story.
- Gently invite others to experience the joy you have found through stewardship as a way of life.

5. Practice, Practice, Practice—Practice your talk aloud and in front of a mirror until you feel comfortable.

6. Rehearse your talk in front of your Pastor and/or members of your Stewardship Committee under the actual conditions, (i.e., at the ambo, with the microphone on, with the lighting that will be used for your presentation.)

7. Pray Again as you walk up to the ambo. Remember that your listeners are your parish family. Don't worry about sounding professional; speak naturally and from your heart. The most effective witness is sincere, enthusiastic, and probably a little nervous.

8. Pray One More Time—When you're finished, thank God for the opportunity to share your personal story and pray that someone—even just one person—will be motivated and encouraged by it.

WHEN SHOULD A LAY WITNESS TALK TAKE PLACE?

The most effective time for a Stewardship Lay Witness talk is right after a brief homily. However, your pastor may choose another time instead. Let your pastor be your guide.

A WORD ABOUT TREASURE

Lay Witnesses who are asked to focus on the treasure aspect of stewardship may find it particularly challenging. It's not easy to talk about money. Being constantly bombarded by advertising and fund-raising gimmicks, people often react by feeling uncomfortable, put-upon, and suspicious.

It is best to remember that for the Christian steward, money is just another way that we are gifted by God...another way that we can show our gratitude for the many blessings that have been showered upon us. A steward also knows that money is not the "whole picture" and balances his expression of gratitude through time, talent, *and* financial resources.

Lay Witnesses can help parishioners understand that a steward lives by a "need to give" vision, rather than a "give to the need" or "pay the bills" mentality. Stewardship of treasure is giving for the sake of giving, without being asked. It would also be beneficial for the Lay Witness to focus on the five characteristics of stewardship of treasure:

1. **Planned**—Stewardship of treasure is an intentional response to God's generosity. It requires thought and time to formulate a deliberate decision that requires us to focus on our values and priorities. *(The opposite of this would be giving whatever you happen to have in your pocket at the last minute.)*
2. **Proportionate**—As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are each called to practice stewardship of time, talent and treasure. The fifth precept of the Church directs us to support the Church financially. We are asked to give according to our means.

Prayerfully consider giving 5% or more of your weekly income to your parish and 5% to the Archdiocesan Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) and to other worthy charities.

3. **Sacrificial**—Giving from our substance often requires a life change and a re-ordering of our priorities. It helps to remind us of our reason for giving and focuses our attention on God.
4. **In Thanksgiving**—The offering of our financial gifts is an expression of praise and thanksgiving for God's generosity.
5. **Given Freely**—A true gift is given "without strings attached" and without any expectation of something in return.

STEWARDSHIP MADE SIMPLE

If you want to convey stewardship of time, talent, and treasure in uncomplicated terms, try this explanation:

- **Reflect on God's gifts to you.**
 - **Make a PLAN (your response).**
 - **Live up to your plan.**

It's that simple.



SCRIPTURE RESOURCES

HEBREW TESTAMENT

Genesis	1-24	God created the world in seven days.
Exodus	19:5	We own nothing.
	23:1-9	Help the poor.
Leviticus	25:23	We own nothing. The land shall not be sold in perpetuity; for the land is mine, and you are but aliens who have become my tenants.
Numbers	18:29	From all the gifts you receive, and from the best parts, you are to consecrate to the Lord your own full contribution.
Deuteronomy	24:17-22	Justice, equity and charity.
Nehemiah	10:36-40	Tithing—first fruits.
Psalms	24:1-2	Ownership and creation.
Proverbs	3:9-10	Honor the Lord with all your wealth, with the first fruits of all your produce; then will your barns be filled with grain, with new wine your vats will overflow.
Sirach	35:7-10	Give generously.

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew	6:19-21	...where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.
	6:25-34	Dependence on God.
	16:24-28	The conditions of discipleship.
	24:25	Faithful and prudent steward.

NEW TESTAMENT (continued)

Mark	10:43-45	Leadership with service.
	12:41-44	The poor widow's contribution.
Luke	6:38	Measure your giving.
	10:25-37	The parable of the Good Samaritan.
	15:12	Wealthy in possessions does not guarantee life.
	20:9-19	The parable of the tenant farmers.
Acts	20:35	It is more blessed to give than to receive.
Romans	12:6-8	Different gifts.
	14:12	Each of us shall give an account of himself to God.
1 Corinthians	12:4-11	The variety and the unity of gifts.
2 Corinthians	9:6-7	God loves a cheerful giver.
	9:8	Resources overflowing.
1 Timothy	6:17-19	The use of wealth; be generous, sharing what you have.
Hebrews	13:5	Be content with what you have.
	13:16	Good deeds and generosity.
James	1:16-18	God's gifts to us.
	2:14-17	Faith and good works.
1 Peter	4:8-10	Christian Charity. As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace.
1 John	3:17	Love for one another—worldly needs.

SAMPLE #1
PARISH STEWARDSHIP TALK

(The following is an edited version stewardship talk given by a parishioner to fellow parishioners at all Masses on ASF Stewardship of Treasure Weekend.)

As I was preparing to give this talk, I took a look at this weekend's readings. When I read the Gospel, I have to confess, I was kind of spooked. There is Jesus chasing the money changers out of the temple and saying, "Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" Am I supposed to talk about stewardship of treasure after hearing that?

The word stewardship means more than simply dropping money into the basket. Stewardship means sharing, not just money, but time and talent as well. As a parish, we work as a team. We have seen our parish grow and prosper because of teamwork. That growth has come from the generosity, of time, talent, and money that all of you have been willing to share.

So when I stop to think again about what Stewardship entails, I realize that today's Gospel is not inconsistent with what I am talking about. Instead, the Gospel forces us to focus on the value of sharing. Jesus was upset with the money changers because they were using the temple for their own personal profit, not to build up the church!

I remember listening to catechism lessons about charity and sharing. When the word charity is used, mostly it was used in the context of sharing with the less fortunate - giving to the poor. In the Gospel about the rich young man he asks Jesus what he must do to gain admission into heaven. As you recall, Jesus told the man to sell everything he had and give it to the poor, and then come and follow Jesus. The rich man could not bring himself to do this.

Probably every one of us, when we hear that Gospel, feels a bit of guilty about our own efforts to accumulate material things. Of course Jesus' answer had two components. One had to do with giving money that is true. But the last part of Jesus response was "Come and follow me." In other words, share your time and talent with the Lord, not only your treasure. That is the real meaning of stewardship.

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I don't believe that Jesus expects all of us to impoverish ourselves. But he does expect us to share what he has entrusted to us, generously and cheerfully. Jesus' answer to the rich young man really emphasized the point that those who have much are expected to share much. Jesus could have told the rich man to sell only half, or 1/4, and the rich man's response would probably have been the same. He was not prepared to share his time, talent, or his wealth. He was looking for an easy answer.

When our pastor asked me to speak this weekend, I asked myself, "Why me"? Who am I to speak about stewardship? I would like to be able to stand up here and tell you that I give ten percent of my income to charity and that I spend 20 hours a week working at a homeless shelter. But the truth is that I am an average parishioner, just like most of you. My wife Cathy and I have to budget our resources, just as you do. I know that when you are raising a family, there never is an overabundance of time or money.

While reflecting on Christian stewardship, especially stewardship of treasure, I thought of some of the reasons or excuses that I have used over the years, or that I have heard others use to avoid really sharing our resources.

Reason number one for me, and I would bet for most of you, is "I can't afford to give that much this week!" When I think about this excuse, I remember what my mom used to say about having kids. There were six kids in my family and money was tight. Mom would laugh when she would hear people say that they couldn't afford to have kids. She pointed out that if you waited until you could afford kids, no one would ever have them! We can always think about other things we need, or more realistically, things we want - new houses, a new play station or TV, a vacation trip. Yet when kids arrive, they fit smoothly into the family and somehow, we make do.

For me, it is a matter of budgeting/planning and making a commitment to share. We all make choices and set goals. I find in my case that I constantly need to re-examine my choices and goals. Am I choosing to share the blessings that God has given me, or am I choosing to accumulate or hold back? Am I following Jesus, or am I imitating the rich young man in the Gospel?

Each time I think about cutting back on contributions to the church, I try to remember the many blessings that God has given me. Sometimes I forget, as I am sure most of you do. As human beings we sometimes fail. But as God's people, chosen in Christ, we are called upon to rise from those failures and try again.

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This brings me to another common reason for not sharing, and that has to do with doubt about the needs of our church. We tend to justify our own lack of charity with rationalizations like "the Church has plenty of property"; the Church has plenty of money. Or as I heard one lady say, "I am tired of giving. What does the priest do with all that money anyway!"

Many of our parishioners have no idea what it takes to run our parish! Besides keeping up our facilities, paying utilities, and implementing a multitude of pastoral programs, we have a highly competent team of dedicated parish staff. We have an obligation to compensate our employees fairly. They too have families and obligations to meet.

These parish obligations, along with many others, are all part of what it means to be good stewards who live our parish mission statement, "To make present the saving act of Jesus Christ through our worship, our word, our witness, and our just and compassionate work in the world".

My final thoughts about stewardship have to do with you and me. I asked myself, "What can I do? How can I be a better steward?" Then I began to consider whether I was really sharing, or simply giving from the leftovers. My own conclusion is that I can do more. As a family, I know that we can do better.

So I call upon you to do the same - to pray and reflect upon your blessings. If all of us, as average parishioners, resolve to be more generous with God's blessings, our parish community will not be just average; we will truly build a vibrant and giving community, not just as a parish, but also as an Archdiocese, and as the People of God!



*-Anonymous Parishioner
Archdiocese of Santa Fe*

SAMPLE # 2 STEWARDSHIP LAY WITNESS TALK

(The following is an edited version stewardship talk given by a parishioner to fellow parishioners at all Masses on ASF Stewardship of Treasure Weekend.)

Hello, my name is _____. This weekend all of us Catholics in the Archdiocese are asked to reflect on how we practice Christian stewardship. Stewardship is the sharing of our time, talent and treasure with others to help build the kingdom of God on earth. I'd like to share with you today a little bit about how God has been working in my life and how I am striving to live as a Christian steward.

As a child, my family belonged to _____ parish. Although we moved out of the neighborhood when I was in middle school, I always considered _____ my home parish. When I was grown and engaged to my husband, _____, we began looking for "our" church where we could start our life together. I was looking for meaningful, prayerful liturgy; he was looking for a Christian community. We each had our requirements met here at _____ parish.

My husband was coming from a Protestant background but was going to become Catholic before the wedding so that our future children would be raised Catholic. He joined the RCIA process. The RCIA process turned out to be a true conversion experience for him, as he completely embraced our Catholic faith.

I experienced my own conversion during this time as well. I was propelled out of my comfortable, anonymous pew, into active, faith-sharing ministry. My husband and I worked with another couple as they completed their sacraments of initiation and we joined a peace and social justice committee. Our life as a Catholic family was truly taking shape. We were beginning to practice Christian stewardship as a way of life.

On July 1, 2006 my life was forever changed when my husband, _____ was killed in a bicycle accident. A few months later _____, our parish Director for Adult Faith Formation, invited me to join the RCIA ministry team. Not wanting to let anymore in my life change I thought to myself, "This is a group that my husband and I were involved in together. I will give it a try." God called me through our RCIA director to share my time and talent with people like my husband, who are on a journey to a closer relationship with Christ and his Church. I am giving back to God and God's people the gifts that God has given me.

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As things often do, being involved in one ministry opens the doors to more. Among other things, I have been involved with our sister parish committee forming relationships with the people of _____ parish in Mexico. My world has been expanded by this. I recently traveled to Mexico to visit our sister parish and use my professional training to help some children with speech disabilities. I witnessed the Catholics of our sister parish practicing stewardship as a part of daily life. Though they had little to give financially, they shared much time and talent supporting their parish and spreading the Gospel.

Life often leaves us with the question, "What is the meaning of all this? Why are we here?" My husband's death left me with the resounding answer, "To build Christ-like relationships by sharing with others." By sharing myself with others I grow in my spiritual connection to my husband – continuing with part of the life we planned for ourselves, I grow in my connection to my community – both large and small, and I grow in my relationship with our risen Lord.

This coming week I invite you to reflect on the gifts and blessings God has given you. How are you using these gifts – your time, your talent, and your financial resources as a grateful steward? May you see all the blessings that God has placed in your life and share them generously with others.

*-Anonymous Parishioner
Archdiocese of Santa Fe*



SAMPLE #3 PARISH STEWARDSHIP TALK

(The following is an edited version stewardship talk given by a Catholic from another parish to Cathedral parishioners on ASF Stewardship of Treasure Weekend.)

Archbishop Sheehan has a sense of humor. How do I know that? Because he decided to schedule Stewardship of Treasure weekend on the same weekend that we hear the Gospel about throwing the money changers out of the temple! And this weekend is also a weekend during the biggest financial crisis our country has ever known, the weekend after an historic Presidential election, and on top of that, the Church celebrates the feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome, which is the Pope's parish in the Diocese of Rome, much like our Cathedral Basilica is the Archbishop's parish in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. So thanks a lot, for this challenge, Archbishop, ! But since I have been asked to speak on stewardship of treasure at our weekend Masses, I'll give it my best shot!

One interesting fact about the Cathedral Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome is that it was the baptism church of ancient Rome. It was built in the time of Constantine and dedicated in the year 324 when thousands became Christian. Baptism in the ancient Church as in today's Church, marks the beginning of our lifelong Christian journey to God. As those marked with the sign of the cross and baptized into the body of Christ, it is our privilege and our responsibility to praise and thank God for the precious gift of Jesus and for the many other gifts, both spiritual and material, that God has given to us. So as baptized Christians, our attitude toward God is always one of praise and thanks – it's an attitude of gratitude!

Many years ago I had an experience that surprised me in regard to gratitude. I was on a chartered flight from Chicago to London chaperoning 15 Catholic high school students. On the flight were teachers from other schools doing the same. About 60 minutes into our flight it was obvious, at least to the adults, that we had made some turns. A few minutes later the captain got on the loud speaker and calmly told us that we had lost power in one engine and that all would be fine, but he had turned around and we would be landing in New York shortly. I knew the tour guide personally and so I casually walked down the aisle and asked what was really happening. He said in a very low voice that indeed engine power was lost in one engine, but another had also lost power. We had just dropped most of our fuel in the Atlantic Ocean and emergency crews on the ground were being assembled. I calmly returned to my seat so as to not frighten any students.

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As I sat down and buckled up my heart was pounding, my palms were sweaty, and to my surprise I had a prayerful conversation with God. I thanked God for giving me 23 years of life. I was grateful for the many wonderful people that had come into my life and for the many enriching experiences I had lived. It had been a good life! I prayed for safety for all onboard and placed my life in God's hands. My first thoughts upon believing that I might die were ones of gratitude – that was amazing to me! Perhaps some of you have had similar experiences.

Gratitude is the hallmark of a Christian steward. Once we are convinced that everything we have – our talents, our skills, our relationships, our possessions, our financial resources are gifts from God that are to be cultivated and shared with others – once we are convinced of that - we experience a conversion of heart that leads naturally from gratitude to sharing with others in God's name. Stewardship then becomes a way of life that is as natural to baptized Christians as praising and thanking God. This stewardship of life is also as powerful as it is natural. Just as in today's first reading from the prophet Ezekiel, the water which began to flow from the temple as a trickle, became an abundant torrent of water which made dead waters alive with life, so too, the one who shares God's gifts can become a torrent of abundant grace pouring out God's blessings upon others.

Bishop Thomas Murphy who was the chair of the Bishop's Committee who wrote the Pastoral Letter on *Stewardship as a Way of Life*, tells this memorable story. In the Holy Land there are two famous bodies of water – the Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee. "What is the difference between these two bodies of water", he asks? The Dead Sea takes and does not give back to the earth. It leaches the earth of all nutrients. It is incredibly stagnant and dead. And Bishop Murphy says that likewise, when we as Catholics take and do not give back, we too are dead. On the other hand, the Sea of Galilee is a body of water that takes and gives back. It is teeming with vegetation and life and the signs of God's presence among us. So too the Catholic who receives God's goodness gratefully and gives generously to others is a powerful sign of God's presence among us.

Let's take a moment to look at today's economic crisis in the light of stewardship. Back in 1992 in the Stewardship Pastoral Letter the bishops admonished all organizations to practice good stewardship, requiring that they observe the most stringent, ethical, legal, and fiscal standards so as to responsibly care for all God's gifts. My brothers and sisters, I believe part of today's financial crisis is the result of poor stewardship. Many organizations failed to be responsible stewards of the public trust.

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Greed took the place of gratitude. Hoarding took the place of sharing. The common good was replaced with "taking care of Numero Uno". Greed, hoarding and self-centeredness are insults to God's generosity. The Lord challenges each of us, "What does it profit you if you gain the whole world but lose your soul, your very self, in the process?"

And so we come today to face God and ourselves with this question, "What do I own, and what owns me?" When our possessions or money take over our soul, we default on God's trust in us. On this stewardship of treasure weekend we are asked to reflect and pray about our relationship with money. When we view money with a Christian soul, we see it as God's gift that is meant to be shared.

In your pews today there are brochures and intention forms to help you reflect on your practice of stewardship of treasure. Can you pick up that intention card and take a look at it? If your weekly household income is \$2,000, then you are asked to give 5% of that income which would be \$100 each week to the regular collection here at the parish. You are encouraged to give another 5% gift to the Annual Catholic Appeal and other worthy charities. To give you some perspective on parish giving, since the first weekend in July this year, the average household contribution to our parish has been \$__. In addition, of the ___ registered households only ___ households or ___% have used envelopes in which to make their gift. While we know that some of us give through electronic transfer or other means, the number of envelopes used at a parish is usually in direct proportion to the number of parishioners who understand that financial stewardship, stewardship of treasure, is one of the responsibilities of a baptized, grateful disciple of Christ.

So on behalf of our pastor and the entire community of brothers and sisters in faith, I ask that you reflect on your financial resources and complete the stewardship of treasure intention form. It says "In gratitude for God's many gifts, I intend to make a gift of X dollars each week to support our parish". There are pencils in the pews for you to complete this form in a moment and place it in the collection basket. If you'd like to take more time to pray about this, take the form home and return it next weekend.

Let us express our gratitude to God by actively participating in the life of the Body of Christ here at our parish. Receive God's gifts gratefully, develop them responsibly, and share them generously, giving thanks to God always and everywhere for everything!

*Anonymous Catholic
Archdiocese of Santa Fe*

**A Message from Most Rev. John C. Wester
to Stewardship Witnesses**



Stewardship is the grateful giving of our time, talent and treasure in return for God's many blessings to us.

Thank you for being willing to share your time and talent by preparing and presenting a Lay Witness Talk on Stewardship in your parish and/or in another parish. Your faith witness is an invaluable sign to the Catholic community. You model one of the fundamental practices of all Christians—Stewardship!

May the Holy Spirit inspire you to speak words that will touch hearts and minds and bring forth abundant blessings!

