

# Stewardship



At Our Lady of Good Help Parish in Mapleville, parishioners gather as grateful stewards to commit a portion of their God-given gifts of time and talent.

According to *Robert and Christine Goudreau*, the introduction of stewardship at Our Lady of Good Help has provided each of their fellow parishioners with a deeper understanding of what it means to live their faith to its fullest potential. Bob states, "I believe that the work of our pastor and the Stewardship Committee in the launching of our 'Celebration of Parish Life' fair was instrumental in developing a greater awareness among all of us. Stewardship has energized and enriched the desire of many in our parish to grow in their faith by becoming more actively involved in some dimension of service or giving. The fact that we have so many active and diverse ministries has made it very attractive for anyone who would like to become more involved. For me personally, stewardship is a reminder that the more we can "unconditionally" give of ourselves as a means of thanking and honoring God the Father, then the closer we come to fulfilling our destiny as His sons and daughters." Chris adds, "It is this energy and excitement and commitment that is making Our Lady of Good Help Parish such a vital piece of each of our lives."

*My church is composed of people like me.  
I help make it what it is.  
It will be friendly, if I am.  
Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.  
It will do great work, if I work.  
It will make generous gifts to many causes,  
if I am a generous giver.  
It will bring other people into its worship  
and fellowship, if I invite and bring them.  
It will be a church of loyalty and love, of  
fearlessness and faith, and a church with  
a noble spirit, if I, who make it what it is,  
am filled with these same things.  
Therefore, with the help of God, I shall  
dedicate myself to the task of being all the  
things that I want my church to be.*

**If you would like more  
information about  
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please contact:**

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# A Disciple's Response



## Serve One Another



TIME · TALENT · TREASURE

Diocese of Providence

**No matter how you attempt to evaluate its effectiveness, stewardship is basically an attitude and a spirit that are very difficult to measure. However, please read the following testimonies of parishioners who tell how the practice of Christian stewardship has changed their lives and the character of their parish communities.**

Five years ago, Saint Gregory the Great Parish in Warwick embarked on a special journey of becoming a stewardship parish. As a parishioner, **Louis DeMascole** has witnessed first-hand the thought conversion that has begun a life-long process of sharing our gifts of time, talent and treasure. He comments, "We called this journey 'Crossing the Bridge'. We needed to call our community over to a new place. After our initial formation meeting and event planning, we recognized that we had, indeed, been a stewardship parish all along. What we needed to do was to reach out to those who were not already involved. We began to communicate this message in homilies, bulletins, handouts and at every ministry function. Members of our community needed to hear that they all have gifts to offer, and that there are various ministries through which they could share these gifts." He adds, "We also rewrote our mission statement to reflect our dedication to this process. We held a ministry fair and distributed a time and talent survey. All these efforts, and others, started the ball rolling. The results were amazing. We just needed to help people become more aware of the need and opportunities. Our numbers rapidly increased. It is our responsibility to call on one another to become involved and to share our talents, to lead by example, and to continue to grow. This process should not be left to the pastor; we all minister to one another. Stewardship is not an option, it is a responsibility." Lou DeMascole ponders and asks, "What return shall I make to the Lord for all He has given me?"

***"As generous distributors of God's manifold grace, put your gifts at the service of one another, each in the measure he has received."***

1 Peter 4:10

**Connie Thornton** is a member of the Stewardship Committee at Saint John and James Parish in West Warwick. Her first introduction to stewardship was in the early 1990's. She thought it was some kind of new program. Then, the more she learned about stewardship, the more she realized that rather than a program, "Stewardship is about a change in how one looks at what we have been gifted with." Connie points out that understanding stewardship and embracing it did not happen overnight. According to her, embracing the tenets of stewardship was relatively easy, once she pondered the concept that everything we have comes from God and every breath we take is a gift from God. She admits that sharing the precious little free time that we have can be difficult. She states, "Recognizing the talents and abilities that we have been given and then sharing them to benefit the wider community can also be hard. And sharing our monetary gifts in a proportionate manner can be equally as challenging. Yet, the sense of joy and fulfillment that I get when I share with others far surpasses the inconvenience of sharing."



As mom looks on, a young parishioner observes the many opportunities to serve at Saints John and James Parish in West Warwick.

## ARE YOU A STEWARDSHIP PARISH?

A STEWARDSHIP PARISH HAS PARISHIONERS WHO...  
...are warm and hospitable.  
...recognize and share our many gifts and talents.  
...are committed to be prayerful disciples of Jesus Christ.  
...are active and involved in the life of our parish.  
...are consciously grateful.

**Doug and Sandra Weinzierl** are active parishioners at Saint Bartholomew Parish in Providence. Responding to their pastor's request to lead the newly formed Stewardship Committee, they state, "We were not exactly sure what we were agreeing to. As we learned what Christian stewardship is, we realized we were already doing it to some degree. The difference today is we make stewardship a conscious choice in our everyday lives. Our involvement in various ministries and committees at Saint Bartholomew has helped us feel that this history-rich parish and its wonderful, warm parishioners are part of our family."

Saint Mary Church in Carolina has just recently become a stewardship parish. As the Coordinator of Religious Education, **Mary Beth Simonelli** has observed people stepping forward and taking responsibility for making their parish a family. She comments, "What I love about Stewardship is how it has awakened our parish. I really see our parish growing and becoming more fully alive with the stewardship spirit. People want to be a part of a community in which they are valued and in return are supported by others with like values and beliefs. We are learning that we are the Church; the Church is all of us! Everyone has something to be thankful for and we can all give back to God and the community by sharing the gifts He has freely given to us. Stewardship is a great reminder of how special each one of us is and how we are all part of God's plan."