

**Chapter XII: Appendix**

***PARISH STEWARDSHIP ASSESSMENT GUIDE***

Circle the number that best fits the reality of your parish.

<i>Scale:</i>	1	2	3	4	5
	Not at all				Very much
1. Our parish has a viable mission statement.	1	2	3	4	5
2. Our parish has an effective way of listening to the concerns of the people.	1	2	3	4	5
3. Parishioners are encouraged to utilize their gifts as part of their baptismal call.	1	2	3	4	5
4. We provide a variety of ministries and activities that respond to peoples' needs and concerns.	1	2	3	4	5
5. We know who and how many people are involved in the ministries of the parish.	1	2	3	4	5
6. Regular efforts are made to discover parishioners' talents, and parishioners are invited to use their talents in parish service.	1	2	3	4	5
7. A description of parish groups/ministries is provided for parishioners.	1	2	3	4	5
8. Appreciation is shown for peoples' contributions of time, talent, and treasure.	1	2	3	4	5
9. We have accurate parish census data and a good method for record keeping.	1	2	3	4	5
10. We interview all newcomers into the parish to hear their histories and to help them discern where they can fit into parish activities.	1	2	3	4	5
11. We provide job descriptions for all parish ministries that clearly state the commitment needed.	1	2	3	4	5
12. We ask lay leaders to take only one major role in the parish.	1	2	3	4	5
13. We have one person or group to oversee/coordinate the ministries of the parish.	1	2	3	4	5
14. Training and learning opportunities are offered to volunteers.	1	2	3	4	5

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15. The parish is not overly dependent on extraordinary fundraisers such as bingo and tickets to support its ordinary budget.	1	2	3	4	5
16. Parish leaders speak about and emphasize stewardship and financial giving.	1	2	3	4	5
17. Parishioners are given a clear account at least yearly of how parish money is spent.	1	2	3	4	5
18. The parish keeps up payments on its debts, if there are any.	1	2	3	4	5
19. Parish facilities are appropriately maintained and adequate for the needs of the parish.	1	2	3	4	5
20. Parishioners are encouraged to plan their financial contributions each year (e.g., pledge/commitment cards).	1	2	3	4	5
21. The parish regularly shares a portion of its income with the poor.	1	2	3	4	5
22. The resources of the parish are sufficient to accomplish its mission and the goals and objectives flowing from that mission.	1	2	3	4	5
23. Members of the Finance Council are persons with interest and experience in budgeting, facilities management, and fundraising and development efforts.	1	2	3	4	5

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### ***LETTER TO PARISHIONERS***

*There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.*

*1 Corinthians 12:4-11*

Dear Parishioners:

For the past several months our Parish Pastoral Council, Finance Council, and Stewardship Committee have been reflecting and planning with me about how best to encourage our parishioners to offer their gifts to God and our parish community. As St. Paul said in Corinthians, each individual has a unique gift which he or she is able to offer. We have decided to use this period of Lent as an opportunity for all of us to reflect on our gifts and their use. During the weekend of ----- we will have a Parish Ministry Fair. All of our parish commissions and ministry groups will be available in the cafeteria after Mass to answer questions about the work they do and to invite you to participate.

Each family will also receive a Parish Ministry Directory, so that you can decide which activity fits in best with your individual or family needs. We ask that you prayerfully reflect on your gifts and your time, and fill out the enclosed Commitment form. These Commitment forms will be collected during the weekend of \_\_\_\_\_ at all Masses.

When filling out the Commitment forms, we ask that you consider your entire family's needs, and that each individual family member fill out a separate form. We are also asking that you indicate your interest in an activity by using a C (for continuing), and N (for New) and and I (for interested in more information).

In preparation for this Commitment process, it might be helpful for you to reflect on the following:

- What talents do you most readily share?
- What talents or gifts are you most hesitant to share. Reflect on the reasons for your reluctance.
- What talents have you buried? What talents have you multiplied?

Is there something that you've always wanted to try but haven't yet done so? Can you do it now? Jesus says, "I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly. (John 10:10)

My personal prayer for you is that your life be abundantly full of the power and mystery and grace of God. God enters into our lives and transforms them, just as He transforms our gifts of bread and wine into the living body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The more we offer of our time, talent and treasure, the more God is able to transform our offerings to build up His Kingdom.

Thank you for the gifts you have given of your time, your talent and your treasure. I pray that this Lenten season will be a holy and prayerful time for you and your families.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor

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***TIME***

***PERSONAL REFLECTION SHEET***

*Look carefully then how you walk. . .making the most of the time*

*Ephesians 5: 15-16*

***MY USE OF TIME IN THE PAST YEAR***

In the past year, what is the best thing I have done with my time:

- to build my relationship with God? \_\_\_\_\_
- to build my relationship with my family? \_\_\_\_\_
- my workplace/school? \_\_\_\_\_
- my parish community? \_\_\_\_\_
- my neighborhood/civic community? \_\_\_\_\_

***MY COMMITMENT OF TIME IN THE COMING YEAR***

In the coming year, what is the best thing I could do with my time:

- to build my relationship with God? \* \_\_\_\_\_
- to build my relationship with my family? \_\_\_\_\_
- my workplace/school? \_\_\_\_\_
- my parish community? \_\_\_\_\_
- my neighborhood/civic community? \_\_\_\_\_

\* Suggestions for deepening your relationship with God: spiritual direction, one more mass per week, daily mass, morning prayer, meditation, rosary, daily spiritual reading, confession, retreat, perpetual adoration (1 hour per month), bible study, sharing faith in a small group...)

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**TIME REFLECTION SHEET**

*Look carefully then how you walk. . .making the most of the time*

*Ephesians 5: 15-16*

**TIME**

How did you use the 168 hours God gave you last week?

<b>Sample</b>		<b>Your Time</b>
<b>168 hours</b>		<b>168 hours</b>
<u>- 56 hours</u> 112 hours	For sleep	- _____
<u>- 45 hours</u> 67 hours	For work	- _____
<u>- 2 hours</u> 65 hours	For volunteer work	- _____
<u>- 2 hours</u> 63 hours	For church	- _____
<u>- 14 hours</u>	For chores	- _____
49 hours	FREE TIME	

How many minutes did you spend on each of the following?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Being with spouse
- \_\_\_\_\_ Being with friends
- \_\_\_\_\_ Shopping
- \_\_\_\_\_ Exercising
- \_\_\_\_\_ Listening to Music
- \_\_\_\_\_ Driving children to activities
- \_\_\_\_\_ Playing musical instrument

What three things from the list at left brought you the most peace?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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***TALENT***

***PERSONAL REFLECTION SHEET***

*To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 1 Cor. 12:7*

***PART 1: THE USE OF MYTALENTS IN THE PAST YEAR***

In the past year, what is the best thing I have done with a gift/talent God has given me (something I feel I am good at, or what others tell me I am good at) in serving and caring for others and their needs:

- my family? \_\_\_\_\_
- my workplace/school? \_\_\_\_\_
- my friends/neighbors? \_\_\_\_\_
- as a member/volunteer in my community? \_\_\_\_\_
- my parish? \_\_\_\_\_

***PART 2: MY COMMITMENT OF MY TALENTS IN THE COMING YEAR***

In the coming year, what is the commitment I can make to serve people best with the gifts/talents God has given me:

- my family? \_\_\_\_\_
- my workplace/school? \_\_\_\_\_
- my friends/neighbors? \_\_\_\_\_
- as a member/volunteer in my community? \_\_\_\_\_
- my parish? \_\_\_\_\_

(Please review the *Parish Ministry Directory*)

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***TALENT REFLECTION SHEET***

***We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us. . . Romans 12:6  
What you are is God's gift to you. What you become is your gift to God.***

The following exercise will help you to identify your gifts, abilities or talents.

1. My family tells me I am good at \_\_\_\_\_
2. My friends would say I am good at \_\_\_\_\_
3. I think I am good at \_\_\_\_\_
4. I've always wanted to try \_\_\_\_\_
5. Some things I have done successfully in the past are \_\_\_\_\_
6. A gift I have been aware of since childhood is \_\_\_\_\_
7. One dream I hope to accomplish is \_\_\_\_\_
8. An emerging interest of mine is \_\_\_\_\_
9. If I could take a year off from my job I would do the following \_\_\_\_\_
10. Before I die I hope to have \_\_\_\_\_

I like to work in the following types of situations:

- As one of a large group
- As part of a small group
- With one or two people only
- Alone or on my own

In my volunteer commitments I prefer:

- Work similar to what I do for my job
- Work very different from what I do at my job
- Work with specific guidelines
- Work which allows me flexibility and decision-making

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***STEWARDSHIP SELF EXAM***

Note: It's not time for finals yet – but here is a useful “test” for individuals to take about their stewardship. Answers for this “exam” are on the next page, but don't peek.

<b><i>What has God given me?</i></b>	<b><i>How can I practice good stewardship of this gift?</i></b>
<b><i>(Fill in the blanks below with your personal responses)</i></b>	
My body	
My mind	
My home	
My family	
My work	
My possessions (including money)	
What I consume (food, fuel, etc.)	
The environment	
My secular community (neighborhood, city, county, state, nation)	
My religious community (parish, diocese, church)	
My time	
My talents.	
Other. . .	



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**STEWARDSHIP SELF EXAM**

*Some suggested Answers:*

<i>What has God given me?</i>	<i>How can I practice good stewardship of this gift?</i>
<i>(Fill in the blanks below with your personal responses)</i>	
My body	Keep it healthy, exercise, eat well, get enough rest, see a doctor when sick.
My mind	Use it to learn, to grow, to serve, to enjoy life.
My home	Keep it in good condition. Live in a space which is adequate for me but not too large, not wasting space.
My family	Keep communication open.
My work	Give it my best shot.
My possessions (including money)	Use only what I need. Share, recycle.
What I consume (food, fuel, etc.)	Use only what I need. Live simply, on as small a scale as is appropriate. Consider effects on the environment and other living creatures. Share, recycle.
The environment	Live lightly, leave no trail. Repair what others may have spoiled.
My secular community (neighborhood, city, county, state, nation)	Vote. Be involved. Be informed. Consider all human beings my relatives.
My religious community (parish, diocese)	Pledge. Volunteer. Pray. Be involved.
My time	Work at good works – whatever helps and not harms others. Keep work and play in balance. Set aside time for prayer. Allow time for relationships with family and friends.
My talents.	Give thanks for them, use them to serve God and humanity.
Other. . .	

Adapted from the Archdiocese of Seattle website [www.seattlearch.org](http://www.seattlearch.org)

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### SAMPLE PARISH DIRECTORY OF MINISTRIES

(This is a partial listing for example only)

#### *Mission Statement:*

#### *Parish Goals:*

***Parish Pastoral Council:*** The Parish Pastoral Council is a consultative body which collaborates (or shares responsibility) with the pastor and pastoral staff in setting the pastoral direction of the parish community. The council seeks to listen to the Holy Spirit to discern what is best for the parish in the light of the Gospel, the Church's teaching, and the experiences and needs of parishioners and the surrounding community. The pastoral council strives to achieve consensual agreement on recommendations which affect future directions for spiritual growth and pastoral activity. The council, whose membership is discerned every two years, meets monthly.

***Parish Finance Council:*** The parish Finance Council is a consultative body which aids the pastor in the administration of the parish goods: financial resources, buildings and grounds. Members of the Finance Council provide expertise in finance, administration and law. The five people who have membership on the Finance Council are appointed by the pastor and serve for a term of three years.

#### ***CELEBRATING***

***We are a Eucharistic community, united in prayer, worship and sacramental life Eucharistic***

***Minister:*** Assists in the distribution of communion at parish liturgies and/or takes communion to the sick. Training is required.

***Lector:*** Proclaims the word of God at Sunday liturgies once a month. Requires the ability to read well and to proclaim God's word effectively. Initial and occasional training sessions are provided.

***Servers:*** Assist the priest at the weekend or weekday liturgies. Must attend a training session. Usually asked to serve one Sunday a month.

#### ***EVANGELIZING***

***We are a caring and welcoming community of faith, and an evangelizing presence in the world around us.***

***Legion of Mary:*** Visits the sick and shut-ins; meets twice a month for prayer/sharing.

***RCIA Team:*** Member of a formation team which shares with adults preparing to be initiated into the Church. Meets on Tuesday evenings.

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### *CARING*

*We are missionary in spirit and action, serving the needs of the poor and working for justice.*

**Bereavement Ministry:** Assist and support families that have experienced a loss through death.

Training in grief ministry is required. Meets monthly.

**St. Vincent de Paul Society:** Helps the poor and needy in our area and coordinates seasonal activities e.g. the blanket collection. Meets monthly.

### *TEACHING*

*We are a center of religious education and sacramental life for all people, at all levels.*

**Baptism Program:** Married couples who assist and help prepare parents for their child's Baptism.

**Adult Education Committee:** Determines needs, develops and facilitates programs for adult learning and enrichment. Meets monthly.

### *PARTICIPATING*

*We call all of our people to be witnesses to the presence of Christ,  
and to inspire others to embrace Christ more profoundly.*

**Coffee & Donuts:** Set up and serve coffee and donuts after the 9:00 and 10:30 Masses on Sunday.

**Divorced and Separated Group:** Meets monthly for lectures, dialogue and support; sponsors social activities.

### *OTHER SERVICES NEEDED*

**Sunday Receptionist:** Answers the phone and takes messages for the staff on Sunday morning. Welcoming attitude and ability to keep confidences.

**Gardening:** Outdoor work on parish grounds, (cutting grass and weeding)

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### My Personal Commitment of Gifts/Talents for the Coming Year

*“God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work.”*

2 Corinthians, 9:8

There are many opportunities for each of us to share our gifts with others, not only in service to the parish but also in our homes, our community and our world. Please discuss and coordinate with family members how you would like to use your time and talent to benefit the parish community.

**Each family member should complete a separate form.**

Please review the Parish Ministry Directory for descriptions of each opportunity listed below. Areas where people are especially needed are underlined.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
home

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
work

#### CELEBRATING

- Art and Environment Committee
- Cantor
- Choir
- Greeter
- Eucharistic Minister
- Instrumentalist
- Lector
- Liturgy Commission
- Sacristy Helper
- Servers
- Spiritual Development Commission
- Small Christian Community
- Usher

#### CARING

- Babysitting
- Bereavement Ministry
- Food & Clothing Distribution
- Ministry to the Hospitals
- Ministry to the Homebound
- Ministry to the Prison
- Pro-Life Committee
- Skills Bank
- Social Concerns Commission

#### TEACHING

- Adult Education
- Education Commission
- PSR Teacher (Gr. 1-6)
- PSR Teacher (Gr. 7-8)
- PSR Teacher (Gr. 9-12)

#### EDUCATION CON'D

- PSR Aide
- Baptism program
- Pre-Cana Team
  
- Day School
- Bingo Worker
- Classroom Aide
- Recess Help
- Clerical Help
- Certificate program

#### PARTICIPATING

- Altar & Rosary Society
- Coffee & Donuts
- Divorced/Separated Group
- Family Life Committee
- Holy Name Society
- Newsletter
- Parish Festival
- Parish Picnic
- Scouting
- Senior Citizens Ministry
- Sports/Coaching
- Recycling

#### EVANGELIZING

- Ecumenical Activities
- Evangelization Committee
- Legion of Mary
- Parish Welcome Committee
- RCIA Team Member

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### OTHER TIME/TALENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Prayer for the Parish
- Bake/Cook for Parish Gatherings
- Clerical Help
- Gardening
- Janitorial Help
- Snow Shoveling
- Create/Maintain Signs

I would be willing to share my time and talent in an area not listed above.

Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

### Special Information:

- I am interested in becoming more involved.
- I am interested in changing some of my current commitments
- I prefer a one-time commitment (1 hour to 1 day)
- I prefer a short-term commitment (not more than 6 months)
- I prefer a longer-term commitment (1-2 years or more)
- I am not interested in changing any of my commitments
- I am unable to take on additional commitment at this time. Please contact me at a later date, after \_\_\_\_\_ (Date).

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**YOUTH/TEEN COMMITMENT FORM**

*Say not "I am too young." To whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you shall speak. Have no fear before them, because I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.*

*Jeremiah 1:7-8*

Our parish is pleased to offer the following opportunities to young people to offer their time and talent to our parish community. Ages are listed where there is a minimum age requirement.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Please put a check next to any activity for which you would like to offer your time:

- Baking** – when called, bake items for parish functions and bake sales
- Clerical/Accounting** – help with mailings, folding, etc. after school and on weekends as needed
- Coffee and Donuts** – high school age students needed to help serve and clean up after coffee and donuts on Sunday.
- Eucharistic Ministers** – high school seniors or older needed to distribute communion at Masses. Training available spring of junior year.
- Lectors** – Confirmed young people who are high school age or older needed to read at all Sunday Masses
- PSR Hospitality** – high school age students needed to assist with PSR hospitality and welcoming
- Servers** – individuals in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade or older needed to serve. Training sessions are advertised.
- Social Events Worker** – individuals 7<sup>th</sup> grade and older needed to help set up, assist and clean up for parish events.
- Sunday Preschool** – Young people in 5<sup>th</sup> grade or older needed as aides
- Youth Retreat** – High School juniors or older needed to assist with Youth Retreat. Must attend planning sessions.
- Vacation Bible School** – Young people in 7<sup>th</sup> grade or older needed as aides for one week in June, mornings only.

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### *SAMPLE INITIAL LETTER FROM PASTOR*

Dear,

I am truly grateful to all of you who generously share your time, talents and treasure for the betterment of our parish community. In the next few weeks our parish will be focusing on the importance of financial stewardship to the mission of our parish.

“Members help the church to fulfill its mission by giving generous support of time, money, prayers, and personal service according to their circumstances to parish and diocesan programs and to the universal Church.” (U.S. Bishops, Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response)

There are a lot of materials distributed on the subject of stewardship, but the message is simple. What has God entrusted to us, and how are we stewarding what has been placed in our care?

The enclosed report gives an accounting of our parish financial stewardship. Please review it carefully. Your contribution has enabled us to (personalize)

At the Masses next weekend, members of our parish community will share with you their personal journey as stewards of all God’s gifts. We are all aware of the very limited resources which are available to us as individuals. Sometimes we have to struggle to make ends meet. The same is true for our parish. Yet to accomplish the mission of the church, to continue the work of Jesus, is a vocation each of us accepted in Baptism, and to which we recommit ourselves each time we come forward to receive Holy Communion. Through stewardship we are asked to reexamine our priorities and determine if they are reflective of our commitment.

(dates -----) will be our Financial Stewardship Commitment Weekend, an opportunity for us to prayerfully reflect on God’s generosity and to renew our financial support. If our parish is to be effective both in the near and distant future, we need a grateful and generous sharing of time, talent, and material resources from all our parishioners.

I pray that God will inspire each of us to open our minds and hearts to the call of stewardship so we can continue to build the Body of Christ and bring God’s love and compassion to all.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor

## TAKE A STEP IN GIVING

### Weekly Giving to the Parish in Your Sunday Envelope

Hourly	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly	2.0%	2.5%	3.0%	3.5%	4.0%	4.5%	5.0%	10.0%	15.0%
\$2.00	\$80.00	\$347.00	\$4,164.00	\$1.60	\$2.00	\$2.40	\$2.80	\$3.20	\$3.60	\$4.00	\$8.00	\$12.00
\$5.00	\$200.00	\$867.00	\$10,404.00	\$4.00	\$5.00	\$6.00	\$7.00	\$8.00	\$9.00	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$30.00
\$7.00	\$280.00	\$1,213.00	\$14,556.00	\$5.60	\$7.00	\$8.40	\$9.80	\$11.20	\$12.60	\$14.00	\$28.00	\$42.00
\$13.00	\$520.00	\$2,253.00	\$27,036.00	\$10.40	\$13.00	\$15.60	\$18.20	\$20.80	\$23.40	\$26.00	\$52.00	\$78.00
\$16.00	\$640.00	\$2,773.00	\$33,276.00	\$12.80	\$16.00	\$19.20	\$22.40	\$25.60	\$28.80	\$32.00	\$64.00	\$96.00
\$17.00	\$680.00	\$2,947.00	\$35,364.00	\$13.60	\$17.00	\$20.40	\$23.80	\$27.20	\$30.60	\$34.00	\$68.00	\$102.00
\$18.00	\$720.00	\$3,120.00	\$37,440.00	\$14.40	\$18.00	\$21.60	\$25.20	\$28.80	\$32.40	\$36.00	\$72.00	\$108.00
\$20.00	\$800.00	\$3,467.00	\$41,604.00	\$16.00	\$20.00	\$24.00	\$28.00	\$32.00	\$36.00	\$40.00	\$80.00	\$120.00
\$23.00	\$920.00	\$3,987.00	\$47,844.00	\$18.40	\$23.00	\$27.60	\$32.20	\$36.80	\$41.40	\$46.00	\$92.00	\$138.00
\$25.00	\$1,000.00	\$4,333.00	\$51,996.00	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$45.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$150.00
\$27.00	\$1,080.00	\$4,680.00	\$56,160.00	\$21.60	\$27.00	\$32.40	\$37.80	\$43.20	\$48.60	\$54.00	\$108.00	\$162.00
\$30.00	\$1,200.00	\$5,200.00	\$62,400.00	\$24.00	\$30.00	\$36.00	\$42.00	\$48.00	\$54.00	\$60.00	\$120.00	\$180.00
\$33.00	\$1,320.00	\$5,720.00	\$68,640.00	\$26.40	\$33.00	\$39.60	\$46.20	\$52.80	\$59.40	\$66.00	\$132.00	\$198.00
\$35.00	\$1,400.00	\$6,067.00	\$72,804.00	\$28.00	\$35.00	\$42.00	\$49.00	\$56.00	\$63.00	\$70.00	\$140.00	\$210.00
\$40.00	\$1,600.00	\$6,933.00	\$83,196.00	\$32.00	\$40.00	\$48.00	\$56.00	\$64.00	\$72.00	\$80.00	\$160.00	\$240.00
\$45.00	\$1,800.00	\$7,800.00	\$93,600.00	\$36.00	\$45.00	\$54.00	\$63.00	\$72.00	\$81.00	\$90.00	\$180.00	\$270.00
\$50.00	\$2,000.00	\$8,667.00	\$104,004.00	\$40.00	\$50.00	\$60.00	\$70.00	\$80.00	\$90.00	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$300.00
\$55.00	\$2,200.00	\$9,533.00	\$114,396.00	\$44.00	\$55.00	\$66.00	\$77.00	\$88.00	\$99.00	\$110.00	\$220.00	\$330.00
\$60.00	\$2,400.00	\$10,400.00	\$124,800.00	\$48.00	\$60.00	\$72.00	\$84.00	\$96.00	\$108.00	\$120.00	\$240.00	\$360.00
\$65.00	\$2,600.00	\$11,266.00	\$135,192.00	\$52.00	\$65.00	\$78.00	\$91.00	\$104.00	\$117.00	\$130.00	\$260.00	\$390.00
\$70.00	\$2,800.00	\$12,133.00	\$145,596.00	\$56.00	\$70.00	\$84.00	\$98.00	\$112.00	\$126.00	\$140.00	\$280.00	\$420.00
\$75.00	\$3,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$156,000.00	\$60.00	\$75.00	\$90.00	\$105.00	\$120.00	\$135.00	\$150.00	\$300.00	\$450.00

The benchmark for giving sacrificially is the biblical tithe—sharing ten percent of time, talent, and treasure. The practice of tithing is mentioned 39 times in the Old Testament and 11 times in the New Testament. The financial tithe is usually divided in this way: five percent of gross income to the parish Sunday collection, one percent to the Diocesan Catholic Charities, and four percent to your other charitable concerns.

What is important is that your contribution is planned and proportionate to your income. You may choose the manner that suits you best. You may give weekly, monthly, or annually. It is easiest for the parish if you use your envelope(s).



## SAMPLE REFLECTION SHEET ON PERSONAL EXPENDITURES

*Here is a different way to reflect on your monthly expenses  
and your financial stewardship*

**One:** Compare what you spend on various consumer items with your monthly contribution to the parish:

### Household Expenditures

Entertainment	\$
Tobacco/Alcohol	
Food Away from Home	
Personal Care Products	
Pets, Toys	
Television, radio	
Computer	
Cable TV	
Total	\$

Amount Contributed to Parish Monthly \$

**Two:** Name six things you probably spent the most money on this past year:

**Three:** Mark an X on the line below that you think represents how high a priority God has been in your life this past year (using actual evidence from your checkbook and your calendar book):

Low Priority                      Medium                      High Priority

.....▶

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**Four:** Resolve how you can move the arrow closer to the High priority. What specific steps can you take to do that?

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### *PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL*

*(samples)*

Lord, you are the giver of every gift, including the most precious and holy gift of your son, Jesus Christ. Help us to remember how important it is for us to also be a generous giver of gifts, so that we can carry out Christ's mission for His church on earth, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, instill in our heart a spirit of charity and compassion. Help us to be open to ways that can make a difference in our parish and community, by being generous with our abilities and treasure, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, grant us the ability to honestly evaluate our lifestyle that it might reflect a desire to walk closer with you, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, help us to wisely use the gifts you've entrusted us to steward, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, give our parish family the desire to do your will, giving generously of ourselves and our gifts for the mission of the church, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, we offer up a prayer of thanksgiving for the abundance of treasure and abilities you have blessed us with. Give us the desire to joyfully share our gifts for the good of our Catholic community, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, make us trustworthy stewards of your abundant blessings. Show us ways that will enable us to fully embrace your teachings of charity, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, help us to have the courage to be good stewards of God's many blessings.

Chapter XII: Appendix

*SAMPLE*

*TREASURE INTENTION CARD*

*FOR YOUTH*

In gratitude to God for His many Blessings, I promise I will share my Treasure.

I will give -----to my parish every week.

*SAMPLE*

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## Unsigned Commitment

**PLEASE RETAIN  
FOR YOUR RECORDS**

**My (our) faith commitment is:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week

to be paid

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ weekly

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ monthly

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ quarterly

Signature

### **OUR PARISH**

(address)

My/Our Faith Commitment

Through prayer I/we have considered the many gifts and treasures God has given to me/our family. I/we want to return to the Lord for the first fruits of my/our labors in accordance with God's command that we put Him first in our lives.

I/we commit \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to support Our Parish Church and its ministry in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I/we promise to be faithful to this commitment, known only to God and me/us.

*Please use the reverse side of this Commitment form to ask any questions you have about the Financial Report, the Pastoral Report, or any other aspects of our parish finances.*

**St. \_\_\_\_\_ Parish Pastoral Report**  
**September 1, 2007 – August 31, 2008**

Our Annual Chronicle of Vital Statistics,  
Activities, Ministries, Service, and Stewardship

**Our Parish Pastoral Council Members:**

**Our Parish Staff:**

<b>General Information</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
Total registered households		
Total numbers of persons registered		
Baptisms		
First Communion		
Confirmations		
Marriages		
Deaths		
Day School enrollment		
Parish School of Religion (1-8)		
High School PSR		