

Financial Stewardship

Financial Stewardship

Giving generously and joyfully

THE BASILICA
OF SAINT MARY

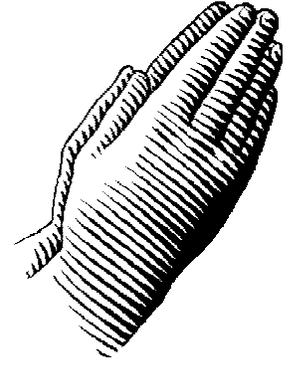


STEWARDSHIP AS A WAY OF LIFE

RESOURCE KIT FOR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

1. Begin by praying the Stewardship Prayer in this packet;
2. Read the definition, summary statement and key messages that explain the theme for the month;
3. Choose one scripture reading that is suggested, read it and talk about it or reflect upon it;
4. Use the reflection questions to see how you can live out this theme during the next two months/year ahead;
5. Decide on a plan of action together and maybe use several of the resources suggested within this packet to help increase your understanding of Financial Stewardship.
6. Use the prayer intentions and one of the closing prayers to end your session.

PRAYER FOR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP



I believe in the gifts from God, and feel gratitude for all that I have been given. These gifts are not mine to have but mine to share. When they are shared, my gifts will make a difference for others. I believe the act of giving is more important than the gift itself.

So I will make giving a priority.

I will give to others because so much of what I have comes from others. I will give of who I am, what I do and what I have. To my family, faith community, I will give myself.

As Christ gave so much for so many, so I will give to you. And I will be thankful for the opportunity to give.

STEWARDSHIP AS A WAY OF LIFE Financial Stewardship

Definition: “*Financial Stewardship*” – Giving generously and joyfully.

Summary Statement: Within the context of Biblical Stewardship, Financial Stewardship calls us to gratefully share our financial gifts and give generously for the many blessings we have received.

Key Messages:

1. The Basilica responds to the needs of our parishioners and the surrounding community.
2. To continue the wonderful work of The Basilica, we ask each household to thoughtfully consider what they are able to give annually.
3. The Basilica has much to be thankful for; we are a growing parish with more than 5,900 households and with that growth comes the increased need for each household to participate in Financial Stewardship.
4. Making a pledged commitment to The Basilica is a way to give from your “first fruits” instead of what is left over. Your pledged commitment helps The Basilica plan for what its income is likely to be.
5. Please know, in response to this time of economic uncertainty The Basilica has cut expenses by \$185,000 through a variety of changes, cut backs, renegotiating vendor contracts, volunteer support, and less printing and postage.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

How do you think about money? Take a few minutes to reflect upon your own understanding of money and the circumstances or events that have led you to your stance.

What is my perception of giving money to my place of worship?

The riches of the spirit are not to be underestimated. Think of a time when you were happy, truly full of joy, peace and contentment. Chances are you might think of a time when you were simply enjoying the company of loved ones, perhaps a celebration at home, quiet time with the family, or experiencing the Creator's beauty in nature. Make a mental note of simple pleasures and know that joy does not necessarily correspond to one's paycheck.

Do I enjoy being rewarded or acknowledged when I give?

How do I understand "Love your neighbor as yourself"? Do I share and give what I have?



PRAYER INTENTIONS

(Please respond: Lord, hear our prayer.)

Help me to be a good steward of my financial gifts and resources. We pray to the Lord.

Lord give me the wisdom to appreciate what I have and an understanding to help those in need. We pray to the Lord.

Help me to balance my needs and wants and prioritize accordingly. We pray to the Lord.

Lord help me to recognize my blessings and share what I have been given from you. We pray to the Lord.

Help me to define my role within the church. We pray to the Lord.

Lord help me to give generously and joyfully, with a good heart. We pray to the Lord.

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURES

2 Corinthians 9:7

So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

Mark 12:41-44

Then he went over to the collection boxes in the Temple and sat down and watched as the crowd dropped in their money. Some who were rich put in large amounts. Then a poor widow came and dropped two pennies. He called his disciples to him and remarked. "That poor widow has given more than all of those rich men put together! For they gave a little of their extra fat, while she gave up her last penny."



Widow's mite

Colossians 2:7

Let your roots grow down into him and draw up nourishment from him, so you will grow in faith, strong and vigorous in the truth you are taught. Let your lives overflow with thanksgiving for all he has done.

THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR PLEDGE

A pledged commitment is extremely helpful, especially an electronic pledge with a credit card or through a pledge taken directly out of your checking or savings account each month. Pledging helps The Basilica plan on how much money we will have to work with in the coming year. It also helps us to anticipate revenue more precisely. Electronic pledging is easy for you and is greatly appreciated. Join the more than 900 families who already pledge electronically.

It is important to support the vibrant Basilica community with its beautiful liturgies, inspirational music and welcoming hospitality.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO GIVE

Commit to giving regularly

- Make a pledge
- Use automatic withdrawal through EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer from your bank account) or credit card
 - Use your weekly envelopes that are sent out on a bi-monthly basis
 - Make a gift online at www.mary.org
 - Give a gift to one of The Basilica's second collections

DID YOU KNOW . . .

This last year The Basilica has seen a significant increase in the people walking through our doors in need of spiritual, emotional and financial support. The Basilica has responded and now we ask you as parishioners to respond by making a financial commitment.

Pledging is important– It is a way to give from your first fruits and helps The Basilica to plan for its likely income.

If you have never given a financial gift before, consider giving the money you would have spent on a coffee or a dinner out.



Your gifts help to provide the hundreds of liturgies that thousands of people experience each year.

Each month we are able to welcome new members into our community with a special dinner and opportunities to become involved because of your generosity.

Parishioners of all ages are able to attend faith formation classes to help their spiritual growth.

The Basilica is a welcoming spiritual home to over 5,800 households, while promoting qualities of diversity, social justice, relief for the poor and hospitality for all.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What does giving financially have to do with my spirituality?

A: Within the larger context of Biblical stewardship, Financial Stewardship calls us to gratefully share our financial gifts and give generously in gratitude for the many blessings we have received from God. One way we can do this is by financially supporting The Basilica programs. The Basilica is a place to renew, refresh and stabilize ourselves mentally, emotionally and spiritually through the practice of our Catholic faith. Our faith community offers nourishment and strength so that we can face the challenges of our lives with courage and grace.

Q: Where does the money from my pledged commitment to Financial Stewardship go?

A: Your pledge to Financial Stewardship goes to pay for the day to day operating costs of The Basilica which are \$3.4 million. Your pledge for the year helps pay for the lights, heat, all the costs of the liturgies from hosts, wine, musicians, leaflets, to the learning classes and Christian Life ministries and much more.

Q: How much money does it take to sustain The Basilica's programs, ministries and services?

A: The Basilica's operating budget for 2010 is \$3,400,000.

Q AND A CONTINUED

Q: How much should I give?

A: Only you can decide what's best for you and your family. Annual pledges vary greatly from household to household. Our hope is that you participate at whatever level you can afford.

Q: Why should I increase my pledge?

A: In this challenging economy, many people are out of work or have experienced pay cuts and are not in a position to help as they have in the past. If you can, please consider increasing your pledge so we can continue to maintain our services and ministries. Each year we work to improve our programs and ministries that are offered 365 days a year in the face of rising utility costs to heat and cool The Basilica campus buildings, higher insurance costs, and higher costs from vendors and suppliers. Your increased financial commitment helps us cover all of these things.

Q: You are encouraging me to give electronically? Why?

A: Electronic giving is easy and it reduces the amount of paper for you and The Basilica. It also provides a predictable stream of income for The Basilica's planning and bill paying. Nearly 1,000 families give electronically today and we invite you to join them. There are two ways to give electronically.

- 1.) Set up automatic withdrawal through your checking or savings account.
- 2.) Pay your monthly pledge with a credit card.

RESOURCES

Books

The Spirituality of Fundraising by Henri Nouwen

An exploration of the joy and necessity of fundraising from a spiritual perspective.

Catholic Stewardship: Sharing God's Gifts by Colleen Smith

A personal guide filled with useful tips and thought provoking content to inspire and deepen Christen Stewardship.

The Grace of Giving by Stephen F. Olford, Edwin L. Frizen

A comprehensive, honest and deeply perceptive study of Financial Stewardship. Journey through scriptures to see the reasons for giving, the discipline of giving and the motivation of giving.

Time, Talent and Treasure: Reflections on the US Bishops' Model for Parish Stewardship by C. Justin Clements

A series of deeply spiritual, yet fundamentally practical reflections that greatly expand on the seven-step process that promotes stewardship conversion, found in the US bishops' letter "Stewardship: A Disciple's Response".

Websites

www.sharesavespend.com

A website developed by Nathan Dungan and give helpful ideas and tools to maintaining healthy money habits.

www.generousgiving.org

A website that explores personal experiences when people give joyfully and willingly.

THANK YOU

Thank you for your generous support of the ministries at the Basilica. Your financial gifts provide life changing ministries for many people in our parish and in our community.

Your gifts in action support our ministries of:

Liturgy-Celebration of our faith through ritual and the arts with quality liturgy, inspiring music and thought provoking sacred art.

Learning-Commitment to deepening the understanding of our faith through formation and learning programs for all ages.

Life-Commitment to serving one another and working for justice through ministries that support those within our parish and those in need in our community.

We are blessed to have such a generous community who share their gifts in so many ways.

CLOSING PRAYER

O Lord, giver of life and source of freedom, we know that all we have received is from your hand. Gracious and loving God, you call us to be stewards of your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us.

Help us to always use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. Send the Holy Spirit to work through us, bringing your message to those we serve. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Jesus Christ in our lives. We pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Basilica of Saint Mary
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Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 333-1381
www.mary.org

Location: 16th Street and Hennepin Ave

Mass Times:

Weekdays:

7 AM and Noon

Saturday:

5:00 PM

Sunday:

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM, 4:30 PM and 6:30 PM

