



Local Stewardship

*Create bridges between communities and
advocate for those in need*



Stewardship as a Way of Life Resource Kit for Local Stewardship

This resource kit can be utilized in any setting, whether you are a couple, a family with children, a small group or an individual. The directions are below.

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 *Local Stewardship*
6. Use the prayer intentions and one of the closing prayers to end your session.



A parishioner and guest enjoy each other's company at our Thanksgiving Holiday Meal Party.

PRAYER FOR LOCAL STEWARDSHIP

Let us pray to God . . .
For the community we live and work in,
For all the people in it who are lonely,
For those whose voices are never heard,
For those who find no friends,
For the people in our city
who are homeless and without shelter,
For those who are disheartened,
And for those who feel betrayed.

Let us ask the Lord for forgiveness . . .
For the suffering we cause others,
For our forgetfulness and neglect of others,
For our lack of understanding of each other,
For speaking ill of other people,
For the bitterness we feel toward others,
And for the inability to forgive others.

Let us ask God for the grace . . .
To break down barriers among people,
To create bridges between communities,
To work toward equality and justice for all,
To promote peace,
To advocate for those who have no voice,
And to embrace all as our brothers and sisters.

Amen

STEWARDSHIP AS A WAY OF LIFE

Local Stewardship

Definition: “*Local Stewardship*” – Create bridges between communities and advocate for those in need.

Summary Statement: Believing in the dignity of all people, we are invited to build community where all can grow to their full potential. We are called to serve one another and to work for justice. February and March were specifically chosen to highlight Local Stewardship as the MN State Legislature is in session, providing powerful opportunities to advocate on behalf of the most vulnerable. This year, we will focus on bringing the stories we hear to those in power.

Key Messages:

1. We called to open our eyes, hearts and minds to the realities of people around us.
2. While we support one another through all stages and phases of life, we give special attention to the weak and vulnerable—working toward the Common Good of all people.
3. As Catholics, we must be engaged in both Charity (responding to immediate needs) and Justice (collective action to shape structures of society such as economic, education, health care etc).



Hands Across the Northside: Standing in solidarity with our neighbors

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 29:7 *Seek the welfare of the city to which you have been sent*

Matthew 22:35-40 *The Greatest Commandment*

Luke 18:18-30 *The Rich Ruler*

Luke 16:19-31 *The Rich Man and Lazarus*

Luke 10:25-37 *The Parable of the Good Samaritan*

John 13:1-20 *Jesus washes the feet of the Disciples*

Matthew 5:3-12 *The Beatitudes*

Matthew 25: 31-41 *The judgment of the Gentiles*



*Prayer at the St. Jane House in
North Minneapolis*

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Catholic Social Teaching is a treasure of church documents that address economic, political, and social issues of our life. CST is rooted in the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures, as well as traditional philosophical and theological documents of the Church.

The common good embraces the sum total of all those conditions of social life which enable individuals, families, and organizations to achieve complete an effective fulfillment. [Mother and Teacher](#), #74

The obligation to "love our neighbor" has an individual dimension, but it also requires a broader social commitment to the common good. We have many partial ways to measure and debate the health of our economy: Gross National Product, per capita income, stock market prices, and so forth. The Christian vision of economic life looks beyond them all and asks: Does economic life enhance or threaten our life together as a community? [Econ. Justice for All](#)

There is a growing awareness of the sublime dignity of human persons, who stand above all things and whose rights and duties are universal and inviolable. They ought, therefore, to have ready access to all that is necessary for living a genuinely human life: for example, food, clothing, housing... the right to education, and work... [The Church and the Modern World](#), #26

The way society responds to the needs of the poor through its public policies is the litmus test of its justice or injustice. [Economic Justice for All](#), #123

Human persons are willed by God; they are imprinted with God's image. Their dignity does not come from the work they do, but from the persons they are. [The Hundredth Year](#) (Donders translation), #1

But any kind of social or cultural discrimination in basic personal rights on the grounds of sex, race, color, social conditions, language or religion, must be curbed and eradicated as incompatible with God's design. [The Church in the Modern World](#), #29

Love for others, and especially for the poor, is made concrete by promoting justice. [The Hundredth Year](#), #58

Let each one examine his conscience, a conscience that conveys a new message for our times. Is he prepared to support out of his own pocket works and undertaking organized in favor of the most destitute? Is he ready to pay higher taxes so that the public authorities can intensify their efforts in favor of development? Is he ready to pay a higher price for imported goods so that the producer may be more justly rewarded? [On the Dev. of Peoples](#), #48

Action on behalf of justice and participation in the transformation of the world fully appear to us as a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the Gospel, or in other words, of the Church's mission for the redemption of the human race and its liberation from every oppressive situation. [Justice in the World](#) (#6)



Mary Johnson lost her son to gun violence, and has since reconciled with Oshea Israel, the man convicted in his death. Mary and Oshea, pictured together above, have shared their story together on behalf of From Death to Life, a ministry of healing and reconciliation for mothers affected by violence.

DID YOU KNOW

Homelessness in Minnesota 2009, published by Wilder Research in October 2010, indicated that the number of homeless people in Minnesota has risen sharply, reflecting the tough economic climate of the past few years. This survey was last conducted in 2006 and many findings show cause for concern.

- The study counted 9,654 homeless adults, youth and children – a 25% increase over 2006
- 52% of all homeless adults have been homeless for at least one year – up from 47% in 2006
 - 59% of these have a serious mental illness
 - 27% have a drug or alcohol abuse diagnosis
- A single-night count indicated 1,268 homeless youth (ages 12-21) in Minnesota – an increase of 46% from 2006
 - 24% of youth slept outside at least one night in October 2009
 - 46% report a serious mental illness
 - 45% have been physically or sexually mistreated
- Racial disparities persist among homeless people in Minnesota
 - African-American and African born people make up 4% of the adult Minnesota population and account for 41% of the homeless adult population
 - American Indian disparities are particularly large among homeless youth in greater Minnesota

- 29% of adult homeless women are fleeing domestic violence
 - 58% of these women have children under 18 living with them
 - 48% of these women report they have stayed in an abusive situation because they did not have other housing options

- 74% of homeless adults reported at least one of three major health issues—mental illness, substance abuse disorder or a chronic physical health conditions—40% have more than one

- 48% of all homeless adults have been jobless for more than one year – up from 38% in 2006

- Median monthly income of homeless adults from all sources was \$300 in 2009 – down from \$400 in 2006

- Barriers to homeless adults obtaining/maintaining housing include lack of job or income (43%), lack of affordable housing (24%), criminal background (16%), credit problems (16%) and court eviction/bad rental history (9%)

- Approximately 20% of homeless men are military veterans

CONNECTING WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS

You feel strongly about an issue in your community so you do what you've always heard you should – you fire off an eloquent email to your local representative, only to get a form letter acknowledgment or worse yet, no response at all. What was the point in that? Did your email even make a difference? What if they didn't vote the way you wanted them to? Did you fail?

Successful policy change is a long-term process. It's all about building relationships and helping to change minds and hearts. It's really a conversion process and that doesn't happen overnight. Your call or email was a great first step and very likely was read by the elected official and staff, even if you didn't get the response that you'd hoped for.



The Northside Visitation Sisters at their polling place

DEVELOPING A RELATIONSHIP

There are a few things you can do to develop strong relationships with policymakers:

- A few calls or emails on an issue can make a big difference in bringing it to the attention of elected officials. Getting their attention is the first step!
- Elected officials are people just like you. Don't be afraid to approach them but be well-organized and polite. They are asked to make decisions on hundreds of issues so you need to be clear in what you're asking for.
- No one likes to be threatened or dictated to so always be polite. Thank them for good work that they've done and for their time and attention. And develop relationships with the office staff as well – those can be as beneficial as meeting with the elected official.
- Personal stories make the greatest impact – those are the ones likely to be remembered. It's fine to work from talking points but try to make the language your own.
- Even better is a face-to-face meeting at their office or in the community. Invite your elected officials out to see your program or issue first-hand!
- Don't be discouraged if they didn't vote the way you wanted. Many factors go into a vote on a particular piece of legislation. Keep emailing, calling and meeting – you're helping to educate your policymakers and building the relationship!

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

Ask yourself or companions these questions on the ride home, gathered around the table or in your small group.

1. Do I contact my legislators about issues affecting those in need in my community? If not, what prevents me from doing this? Am I willing to commit to making a phone call or writing a note to my legislators at least once this legislative session? (Visit the Take Five Tables after Masses in March to get started!)
2. Do I have a concern that I don't have enough information, statistics, intellectual grasp of the issue to meet with my legislators?
3. What is one thing I will commit to do at The Basilica to live out my call to be a steward in my local community? (See "Events" and "Opportunities to Get Involved" in this Toolkit)
4. How can my understanding of the word "stewardship" continue to grow and change as I get involved in Local Stewardship?



*Basilica youth at Cardboard Box City at
State Fair Grounds, Fall 2010*

RESOURCES FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING

Web Resources

Sojourners: Christians for Justice and Peace www.sojo.net

Office for Social Justice- St. Paul & Minneapolis www.osjspm.org: OSJ seeks to educate, motivate, and organize people of faith as they affect social change through legislative advocacy.

Public Achievement <http://publicachievement.org>: Through Public Achievement, people work with others to meet challenges and solve problems. They learn from each other the meaning of citizenship and democracy. Ordinary people do extraordinary things.

Salt of the Earth <http://salt.claretianpubs.org>: Your online resource for Social Justice

Peace Foundation www.citypeace.org: Working for peace and justice in North Minneapolis

Joint Religious Legislative Coalition www.jrlc.org: An interfaith network mobilizes religious communities to influence public policy in Minnesota.

Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless www.mnhomelesscoalition.org: Generate policies, community support, and resources for housing and services to end homelessness in Minnesota.

Heading Home Hennepin <http://headinghomeminnesota.org/hennepin>: a 10-year plan designed to end homelessness in Minneapolis and Hennepin County by the year 2016.

Book Resources

A Framework for Understanding Poverty, by Ruby Payne. People in poverty face challenges from both obvious and hidden sources. Ruby Payne provides practical, real-world support and guidance to relating with people from all socioeconomic backgrounds.

The Poverty and Justice Bible Almost every page of the Bible speaks of God's heart for the poor. Using the clear Contemporary English Version (CEV) text, *The Poverty and Justice Bible* highlights more than 2,000 verses that spell out God's attitude to poverty and justice.

The Working Poor: Invisible in America, by David K. Shipler. *The Working Poor* examines the "forgotten America" where "millions live in the shadow of prosperity, in the twilight between poverty and well-being."

Criminal of Poverty: Growing Up Homeless in America, by Tiny, aka Lisa Gray-Garcia. Eleven-year-old Lisa is her mother's primary support when they face homelessness.

American Dream: Three Women, Ten Kids, and a Nation's Drive to End Welfare, by Jason DeParle. Tracing the lives of three women and their children as legislative changes are pushed through Washington and the state of Wisconsin.

The Child Poverty and Inequality: Securing a Better Future for America's Children, by Duncan Lindsey. A history of economic and family policy from the Great Depression and the development of Social Security, followed by several viable universal income security policies for vulnerable children and families that aim not just to reduce child poverty, but also to give all children meaningful economic opportunity.

Film and Video Resources

When God Left His Shoes: When Frank, Angela, and their two children are evicted from their New York City apartment, they have no choice but to move into a homeless shelter. *Where God Left His Shoes* is the story of a family that refuses to break apart during the darkest time of their lives and discovers that they will survive as long as they have each other. Winner, Best Sundance Film Feature Humanitas Prize

Dead Man Walking — Powerful fact-based dramatization about a Louisiana nun offering spiritual comfort to a hard-bitten prisoner condemned to death for the rape and murder of two teenagers, while at the same time attempting to share in the painful loss of the victims' grieving parents. (R) 1995

Bread and Roses — A young Mexican woman crosses the border into LA to join her sister, who works as a janitor in some of the city's largest corporate offices. Surrounded by the machinations of big business, the sisters seek happiness on a smaller but more human scale as they try to organize a janitorial union. A chance meeting with a passionate American activist leads to a campaign against their employers. The fight threatens their livelihood, family, and risks their expulsion from the country.

Precious: In Harlem, an overweight, illiterate teen who is pregnant with her second child is invited to enroll in an alternative school in hopes that her life can head in a new direction. Powerful, transformative, two-time Academy Award winning movie

Spanglish — James L. Brooks' touching comedy-drama about a non-English-speaking, Mexican single mom who struggles to instill traditional values in her young daughter, while working as a housekeeper for an affluent American family. The movie deals with parenting and cultural assimilation with great profundity under its breezy surface. (PG-13), 2004

RESOURCES FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Mass with Sacrament of Anointing

Saturday, March 19, 10:30am

Celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick during a special Healing Mass for all the members of our parish who are in need of healing and their families.

Taizé Prayer and Time for Individual Confession

Tuesday Evenings: February 8, March 8, 5:30pm

Teresa of Calcutta Hall

Mantra-like singing of simple yet beautiful songs, following the Taizé tradition of communal prayer focused on reconciliation and healing.

Contemplative Prayer, Wednesday mornings

7:30am, Saint Joseph Chapel, following the 7:00am daily Mass

Lectio Divina on the day's Gospel, followed by 20 minutes of silent prayer.

Contemplative Prayer Workshop, with Sister Virginia Matter OSB

6 Saturdays in Lent, starting March 12, 9:00–11:00am

Contemplative Prayer opens the mind and heart to God, beyond thoughts, words and emotions. In this free workshop series, learn about and experience prayer. Contact Cathy 612.317.3474 or cedwards@mary.org to RSVP.

Spiritual Direction

Spiritual direction is a special time to meet with another and reflect on your relationship with God. Consider participating in spiritual direction—a time when you can be intentional about listening for the movements of the Holy Spirit in all areas of life. Call 612-317-3477 for more information.

Lectio Divina-Sacred Reading

Lectio Divina is reflecting on Scripture in a small group. Practice Lectio Divina using the Sunday scriptures this Lent. There are two groups, and a limit of twelve people per group, so register on MyBasilica or call 612.317.3474!

Lenten Tuesdays, March 8—April 19

11:00—11:55am, Catherine of Siena Room, Followed by Noon Mass.

OR

Lenten Sundays, March 13—April 17

**Community of Sant'Egidio Prayer
Tuesdays, 7:00pm, The Basilica Choir Stalls**

The Sant' Egidio Community is a lay Catholic association dedicated to prayer, the Gospel, solidarity with those in need, ecumenism and dialogue.

*Lenten Observance with
The Basilica of Saint Mary Community*

Ash Wednesday, March 9

Eucharist and distribution of ashes, The Basilica church

7:00am *Cantor, Organ*

Noon *Cantor, Organ*

5:30pm *Cathedral Choir, Cantor, Organ*

6:45pm Soup Supper in the Teresa of Calcutta Hall

7:30pm *Mundus Contemporary Choir*

Fridays of Lent

5:30pm Eucharist Saint Joseph Chapel

6:00pm Soup Supper Teresa of Calcutta Hall

7:00pm Stations of the Cross Basilica church



Holy Thursday: Washing of the feet at The Basilica

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness (DCEH)

Work with other interfaith downtown congregations to end homelessness by advocating for those in need, learning about issues related to homelessness, and building partnerships to support the Heading Home Hennepin plan to end homelessness. Contact Janice 612.317.3477 or jandersen@mary.org.

Basilica Voices for Justice Network: Join a Basilica e-mail network and raise your voice for justice. Receive up to two e-mail action alerts each month inviting you to advocate for the marginalized and powerless by contacting your legislators about local, state or national issues that can lead to ending homelessness in our community. Contact Janice 612.317.3477 or jandersen@mary.org.

Employment Ministry: Serve as a job coach for those seeking work. Contact Janet 612.317.3508 or jgrove@mary.org.

St. Vincent de Paul Ministries: Join The Basilica in our ministries to our neighbors who come to us in need. Contact Julia 612.317.3413 or jfreeman@mary.org.

St. Vincent de Paul Annual Pledge Drive: On the weekend of March 26-27, we will have our annual SVdP Pledge drive. Consider making a pledged commitment to those in our community



Members of DCEH gather at the JRLC Day on the Hill.

Wanted: Bike Mechanic Volunteers

Our Bicycle Ministry – a program of DCEH to provide neighbors in need a sustainable mode of transportation—needs you! During the week of Sunday, March 13 our annual “Bike Repair Blitz” will take place at Mr. Michael Recycles Bicycles at 520 N Prior Ave in St. Paul. Contact Benita at 651.641.1037 or at warns@pmlink.com to find out more!

St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store: Sort and stock donations, or greet and serve guests. Contact Julia 612.317.3413 or jfreeman@mary.org

The Jeremiah Program: Housing and support for single mothers in college. Contact Stephanie 612.259.3034 or visit www.jeremiahprogram.org

Hands on Twin Cities: The main clearinghouse for volunteer opportunities. Visit www.handsontwincities.org

Loaves and Fishes

Friday, February 25, and the 4th Friday of every month

The Basilica will fund, cook, and serve a meal for 200 people at two different locations in 2011. Volunteers needed at 4:00pm to prepare the meal and 5:00pm to serve. Contact Julia 612.317.3413 or jfreeman@mary.org for details.

Listening House: Provide practical assistance, counsel and a friendly ear to people who are homeless, disadvantaged or lonely. Visit www.listeninghouse.org

Clare Housing: Learn about ways to support those living with AIDS. Visit www.clarehousing.org

Catholic Charities: Reach out to those who are poor, ill, elderly, and oppressed. Contact Brett 612.278.1161 or bzimiewicz@ccspm.org or visit www.ccspm.org.

EVENTS FOR LOCAL STEWARDSHIP

Lenten Faith Sharing Groups

Join a group of 8-12 adults weekly during Lent to deepen your experience of Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving. Contact Michelle 612.317.3414 or mslaughter@mary.org for info.

Joint Religious Legislative Day on the Hill 2011

Thursday, February 17, 8:30am-3:00pm

Join us for the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition Day on the Hill! The theme for this year is "A Stronghold in these times..." (Psalm 9:9). Fr. David McCauley is the keynote speaker. This text brings inspiration and guidance to our work on poverty, health care, judicial fairness, housing, and taxation. Registration is \$40.00 by February 14, and \$45 at the door (\$25 student/low income). Register online at www.jrlc.org, or call 612.870.3670. To carpool from The Basilica, call Meagan 612.317.3419.

Interviewing Skills

Thursday, February 24; 7:00-9:00 pm, Room 103, Basilica School

Hone your interviewing skills during this workshop presented by KT Anderson, parishioner, and member of the Dale Carnegie organization, and energize your personal transition plan for 2011. Register on MyBasilica, or contact jgrove@mary.org or 612.316.3508.

Downtown Choral Festival

Sunday, February 27, 2:00pm, Westminster Cathedral Church

The Basilica Cathedral Choir joins choirs from Central Lutheran, Hennepin Avenue United Methodist, Plymouth Congregational, St. Olaf Catholic, and Westminster Presbyterian for an afternoon of ecumenical song. Featured will be American music by Copland, Billings and Parker and the world premier of a new choir piece by Ysaye Barnwell (Sweet Honey in the Rock). The concert is free and open to the public.

Social Justice Meetup

“How does racism impact your parish and neighborhood?”

Tuesday, March 1, 7:00pm-8:30pm, Saint Olaf Church

Please RSVP if you can, although all are welcome. Call 651.291.4477 for more information.

Shelter Tours

Mondays, March 21 or March 28 5:00 – 8:30 pm

Meet at the Basilica

Take a Tour of Local Homeless Shelters. The tours will be similar, so pick the date that works best for you. Tour will include visits to emergency shelters for adults and families that are homeless. Monday is the day that adults enter a “lottery” for beds. If interested contact Meagan 612.317.3419.

Take Five Tables—after Masses, lower level

Visit the **Take Five Tables** after Mass and “Take Five Minutes to Have Your Voice Heard” through postcards or letters to your elected officials, and help those who are most vulnerable in our community. Contact Janice 612.317.3477 or jandersen@mary.org.



Face painting at our Thanksgiving Holiday Meal event

PRAYER INTENTIONS

(Please respond: Lord, hear our prayer.)

For leaders in our city, state and federal government, that they will work to strengthen the common good, with a special consideration for programs and services that support the least among us... *We pray to the Lord*

That we may open our hearts and minds to better understand the challenges of those living in poverty and make a personal commitment to support their struggle... *We pray to the Lord*

That we can work together with our neighbors on the North Side of Minneapolis to create safe and thriving communities for all... *We pray to the Lord*

That we may have the courage to make our voices heard in support of those who do not have a voice...
We pray to the Lord

For the protection of all children that are homeless, that they may experience the innocent joys of childhood...
We pray to the Lord

That all those who live on the streets and in shelters may be safe and cared for... *We pray to the Lord*

That we may listen courageously and compassionately to one another, bringing healing and reconciliation to our community.... *We pray to the Lord*

CLOSING PRAYER

God, source of all light,
we are surrounded by the darkness of the injustices
experienced by your people;
the poor who are hungry and who search for shelter,
the sick who seek relief,
and the downtrodden who seek help in their hopelessness.

Surround us and fill us with your Spirit who is light.
Lead us in your way to be light to your people.
Help our parish to be salt for our community
as we share your love with those
caught in the struggles of life.

We desire to be your presence to the least among us
and to know your presence in them as we work through you
to bring justice and peace to this world in desperate need.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your son, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever,

Amen



Youth who have been homeless celebrate graduating with their GED

HOMELESS CONNECT:
*Helping those experiencing homelessness connect
with what they need to move out of homelessness.*

