

Parish Stewardship Quick Start

1. Form a Parish Stewardship Team

- **Starting with the Pastor, build a team of parishioners blessed with a variety of gifts and experience. Choose a chair with proven leadership skills that lives as a true Catholic steward.**
This committee is instrumental in assisting the pastor with duties encompassing all aspects of parish life – while emphasizing that stewardship is a spiritual way of life (...and not fund raising).

2. Make a 12 Month Plan

- **First, study the US Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Stewardship, along with other resources***
- **Schedule and assign tasks, activities & communications that educate & engage parishioners**
Align your plan with the parish's Pastoral Plan, while recognizing that stewardship is an ongoing ministry – a process, not a program or single event.

3. Communicate & Educate

- **Include a variety of messages pertaining to stewardship in bulletins, e-bulletins, newsletters, bulletin boards, websites – plus Sunday homilies & the annual Parish Stewardship Report.**
Keep the Pastoral and Finance councils informed, as well as other ministry leaders and staff.

4. Engage the People in the Life of the Parish

- **Create opportunities for people to share and get involved – consider lay witness testimonials**
An up-to-date Parish Ministry Directory is vital to promoting parishioner engagement. Planning and implementing an “annual commitment renewal” is vital to making stewardship a way of life.

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The U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter, "Stewardship--A Disciple's Response," states that Stewardship is an expression of discipleship, with the power to change how we understand and live out our lives. Good stewards live with joy and gratitude for the blessings they have received—and strive to return all gifts to the Father with an increase.

As Catholics, realizing all that we have is a gift from God, we are encouraged to reflect on our blessings, enhance them and share them with others. By giving of ourselves and helping those around us, we are practicing Christian stewardship.

* Diocese of Honolulu – Stewardship & Development – catholicahawaii.org/stewardship – 808-203-6723

* International Catholic Stewardship Council – catholicstewardship.org