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Advancing the Mission
Stewardship Campaign
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ADVANCING
THE MISSION

Prayer Suggestions and Ideas

to support the
Stewardship Campaign

Department of Stewardship and Pastoral Services
August 2006



Prayer Suggestions and Ideas

Bishop Zubik has as his motto, “Nothing is impossible with God!” A variation of this scripture quote is “Great things are possible with God!” and as Catholic parishes throughout Northeast Wisconsin prayerfully participate in the Stewardship Campaign: *Advancing the Mission*, great things will indeed happen.

Great things can and will happen when we prayerfully ask for God’s guidance and blessings on all those who volunteer their time and service in support of the campaign. Great things can and will happen when each and every parishioner prayerfully considers how to best commit to new levels of prayer, service, and sharing.

This collection of ideas and suggestions is offered to parish leadership and campaign volunteers in support of efforts at the parish level in promoting prayer as a cornerstone for this campaign. May God be with you in all you do and generously bless your parish community with many great things!

Need Additional Help-Copies of Resources?

Contact your parish RSI Consultant or
Susan Perrault
Stewardship and Pastoral Services
Diocese of Green Bay
PO Box 23825
Green Bay, WI 54305-3825
920-272-8306
877-500-3580 (area codes 920 & 715)
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Inspiration Phase. This resource is also available from your RSI consultant, the Department of Stewardship and Pastoral Services or download from the diocesan web site.

- Remind parishioners about the availability for the Daily Stewardship Prayer Journal. As a “teaser,” print excerpts from the book with instructions on how to obtain one.
- Include articles written by various parish members on the power of prayer and the importance of all parishioners praying for God’s guidance and for the success of the parish's stewardship campaign. Include these articles in all parish publications.

Prayer Chain-Eucharistic Adoration

Many parishes sponsor prayer chains or prayer network ministries. Parishioners willing to make a commitment to regularly pray for parishioners with special needs or situations are recruited to accept prayer intentions via a phone tree, bulletin notices, direct mailings, or email. Throughout the various phases of the Stewardship Campaign, consider asking for prayers for the success of *Advancing the Mission*.

Parishes with Eucharistic Adoration chapels might consider asking for a portion of every vigil to be devoted to prayers for the success of the parish’s Stewardship Campaign.

Your Resources and Ideas

During the course of the Stewardship Campaign, as you consider the suggestions gathered here, we know parishes will develop additional ideas and resources. We would appreciate the opportunity to share your experiences and efforts with other parishes. Your projects, ideas, and resources will be properly acknowledged. Thank you for considering our request; see our contact information on the inside of the front cover.

Engaging the Sick and Homebound

Pastoral ministers or care ministry volunteers who regularly take communion to those residing in nursing homes, assistive living centers, or to those confined to their homes can also bring copies of the Stewardship Campaign card and Daily Prayer Journal. Parishioners who are unable to come to church appreciate being remembered and need to know they are still considered important members of the faith community; they can be included in the Stewardship Campaign as part of a prayer ministry. Ask for an ongoing offering of prayer for the success of the parish's campaign. Follow up with regular updates on the activities and progress of the campaign. At the end of the campaign, send a special thank-you note expressing appreciation for their gift of prayer support and how it helped make the campaign a success.

Parish Bulletin-Newsletter-Web Site

Throughout the parish campaign, the weekly bulletin, web site, and parish newsletters can be effective vehicles for the promotion of prayer support.

- Periodically feature the Stewardship Campaign Prayer in the bulletin, parish newsletter, and post to the parish's web site. Invite parishioners to offer the prayer daily.
- A prayer intention resource, designed to follow the five weekly themes of the Inspiration Phase, is available for use at the parish. Request multiple copies from your RSI consultant, contact the Department of Stewardship and Pastoral Services, or download from the diocesan website and share with all responsible for planning weekly liturgies, composing the weekly bulletin, parish, school, or religious education newsletter, or maintaining the parish web site.
- A specialized "Bulletin Filler" resource is also available, filled with selected scripture passages, clip art, and quotes pertaining to Stewardship themes, all designed to coincide with the five week

Stewardship Campaign Prayer

A special Stewardship Campaign prayer is available for use throughout the diocese. English, Spanish, and Hmong versions in a variety of layouts can be downloaded from the diocesan web site, obtained through your RSI consultant or through the Department of Stewardship and Pastoral Services. Parish leaders are encouraged to make extensive use of this prayer in its many formats.

- Distribute the prayer cards in parish mailings, in the weekly bulletin, pass them out at all parish functions. Encourage daily use by parishioners; ask them to post it on the kitchen refrigerator, the bathroom mirror, the kitchen table, or in their daily prayer book.
- Have copies available for use as the opening or closing prayer for all parish meetings – do not limit its use to *Advancing the Mission* committee meetings alone.
- Tape copies of the prayer on the inside cover of parish hymnals or missalettes. Recite the prayer together as a community at mass, perhaps after the homily or after communion.
- Have those who visit the sick and homebound take copies to share – ask daily prayers be dedicated to the success of the parish's campaign.
- Distribute copies to students and staff in the Catholic School and faith formation programs. Invite their prayer support as well.



Prayers of Petition

Each weekend as a community of faith we gather at the table of the Lord to celebrate Eucharist. As part of this gathering, we bring prayers of petition to our God. In the earliest stages of the parish campaign – the organizational phase – invite the community to prayer, asking God for wisdom, insight, and guidance as the community seeks to determine God’s will in the development of the parish “case statement.” This “case statement” will outline the use of the funds the parish will receive through its participation in the *Advancing the Mission* diocesan wide stewardship campaign.

In addition, a special resource featuring suggested prayers of petition has been developed for use during the five week Inspiration Phase of the Campaign. They are organized and ordered to follow the weekly themes of this special five week phase. Copies can be downloaded from the diocesan web site, obtained through your RSI consultant or through the Department of Stewardship and Pastoral Services

Following the Inspiration Phase and Commitment Sunday, ask the Liturgy Committee to follow up with prayers of thanksgiving for the many gifts, blessings and generous sharing that took place as a result of the campaign. Pray for all parishioners to continue to grow in awareness and appreciation of choosing to live out lives marked by prayer, service and sharing.



Parish Meeting Prayer Services

The diocesan department of Stewardship and Pastoral Services has regularly provided a monthly parish meeting prayer service for use by any parish council, committee, or group. These 10–12 minute long, ready-to-copy and easy-to-use prayer services can be downloaded from the web site or sent to you via an email attachment. Two new opening prayer services have been designed around *Advancing the Mission* themes. View them on our web site, obtain copies from your RSI consultant or contact us in Stewardship and Pastoral Services. Share this campaign resource with any and all parish groups and keep this on-going resource in mind for use after the campaign as well.

Daily Prayer Books

To assist parishioners in their exploration of *Stewardship as a Way of Life*, a life marked by prayer, service and sharing, a very special daily prayer book has been developed for our use during the five week Inspiration Phase of the *Advancing the Mission* campaign. Consider mailing each household a copy and make copies available at every entrance of the church. Mention their availability at every mass and post notices in the weekly bulletin and on the parish web site.

Some parishes have produced their own versions of daily prayer and reflection booklets. Parishioners from all walks and stages of life are asked to write a brief reflection on a specific topic or in response to a daily reading. These reflections are then compiled into a special individual prayer book, printed locally and shared with the parish community.