



## ADVANCING THE MISSION

### **Kids' Poster, Essay, and Poetry Contest Ideas**

One of the goals of our diocesan wide Stewardship Campaign: *Advancing the Mission* is to bring Catholics of all ages into a deeper understanding and appreciation of *Stewardship as a Way of Life*, a life marked by prayer, service, and sharing. One effective way to encourage this, for both children and adults, is through the sponsorship of parish essay, poetry, and/or poster contests. Invite all children and youth from the parish, students from both the Catholic school and faith formation program to write essays, or poetry, or to design colorful posters around the stewardship themes of prayer, service and sharing. Some suggestions for showcasing the art, poetry, and essays include:

- Invite parish service organizations to sponsor a variety of contests and provide appropriate recognition for all participants.
- Feature selected essays or poems as bulletin inserts, print in the parish newsletter; upload to the parish web site.
- Sponsor a parish art show in the parish hall or gathering area, display all the posters. Invite parishioners for coffee and donuts after mass to visit the display and meet the “artists.”
- Feature posters as covers for parish bulletins or print placemats for use in the social hall.
- Display the posters at every entrance and exit way of the church.
- Invite children to read their essays or poems following communion at weekend masses.

Posters, essays, and poems can be organized and solicited in a variety of ways including:

- An overall theme of *Stewardship – A Way of Life*, a life marked by prayer, service and sharing.
- Have different grades focus on different aspects or themes of the five week Inspiration Phase. A weekly theme approach solicits new material over the five week period and enhances awareness of each aspect of the Inspiration Phase. The five themes could be organized as:

Week I	Stewardship as a Way of Life — It's Way More Than Just Fundraising
Week II	Prayer – Communication with God
Week III	Service – Service to our Neighbors Near and Far
Week IV	Sharing – Generous Sharing of Our Financial Assets
Week V	Commitment to New Levels of Stewardship-Prayer, Service, and Sharing

### **Need Additional Help? Want to share your ideas?**

Contact your parish RSI Consultant or

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