

## SAMPLE HOMILY

This week starts the Stewardship of Service throughout the Diocese. It is an important and significant event in our parish life. It is one that will change the lives of not only the people we give our time to but ourselves as well.

Today, you will hear the story of (name) and how he/she has committed her/his time to someone else. We thank (name) for their act of Stewardship in standing before our parish and sharing with us how the Stewardship of Service has affected his/her life.

In Stewardship of Service, we are called on to give of ourselves and our time to the church and the community. We look to Jesus for help in understanding what the Stewardship of Service is and what it means. Jesus points out that we reveal our values by our actions just as a tree reveals what kind of tree it is by the kind of fruit it bears. This is very similar to what Our Lord says in the Gospel of St. Luke about the things we value: Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Stewardship will make a difference. The difference is seen in several areas of our lives. First, the difference is in the focus of giving. Instead of focusing on the needs of the group to whom we're giving financial support or helping with time and talent, the focus is primarily on God and our relationship with Him. And, the focus is on us and our need to give.

Second, the difference is in the motivation for giving. Stewardship is an integral part of our spiritual life and we give because we are grateful to God for what He has given us. We give freely because we want to, not because we have to.

Third, the difference is in the result of giving. As we practice Stewardship, we find we grow spiritually and that our faith is deepened. In fact, we find that our lives are changed for the good.

Please take the time and give prayerful consideration to your personal commitment to the Stewardship of Service.

Today, we will be hearing from (name).