

## TIPS FOR LAY WITNESS TALKS

An important part of the stewardship of service is the education process. Lay witness presentations are an effective way to educate the parish and have a direct impact on the Stewardship of Service. The following tips are important to consider when initiating witness talks in your parish.

*Invite speakers who are simply everyday people already committed to the Stewardship of Service*

- Select people who are active in parish ministry or community volunteering
- Select individuals who have had some level of personal conversion and are willing to put God first in their lives

*Lay witnesses should introduce themselves and describe their connection with the parish*

- Thank everyone for the opportunity to speak about the Stewardship of Service
- Review the Scripture Readings used during the mass on the Sunday you are to present. If possible, refer to the Sunday readings or choose a favorite scripture that speaks to the heart of the Stewardship of Service

*Present an overview of the purpose and the nature of the talk*

- When did you first hear about the Stewardship of Service?
- What was your initial reaction to the Stewardship of Service?  
Did you have reservations?
- Share your own experience of how you responded to Jesus' calling by returning the Gift of Service to the Lord.
- State how the Stewardship of Service has benefited your life.
- How did your family react?
- How does your family give of their time?

*Challenge other parishioners to reflect on their values*

- Motivate them to get involved in the Stewardship of Service as faith in action
- Ask them to look at all that God has given to them and ask them: to pray, think and then act: *What Return Will you Give to the Lord for All that He Has Given You?*
- Emphasize that we all have gifts to share with others. Service is the most personal aspect of Stewardship

*General tips:*

- Keep your talk brief, no more than five minutes
- Pray and reflect as you prepare your presentation
- Know that your presentation is an invitation to other parishioners to change their lives for the better by sharing their gifts
- Practice your presentation, preferably where you will be giving the presentation using any equipment that you might be using