

Dear Pastors/Parish Directors and Parish Stewardship Contacts,

It is my prayer this Stewardship of Service packet will serve you effectively in your search for new ideas to utilize in the parish for Service to our members.

I am exceptionally pleased to announce we are initiating a new Stewardship of Service Diocesan Recognition Program this year in the form of a **Gaudium Et Spes Nomination Process**. This is meant to affirm the person or couple who exemplify Service to Parish and Community. You may want to nominate that person or couple who assists religiously in the school. You might want to nominate that community minded parish member who leads a local Habitat project by living up to our charge at the end of each Mass, “*Go in Peace and Serve the Lord*”. Instructions, timelines and nominations forms are enclosed.

Many of our Stewardship people have heard of that parish in Kansas with a dynamic, active, long successful Stewardship Program. That parish is St. Francis of Assisi in Wichita. I am including a summary of what this parish has accomplished, along with suggestions from them on maintaining, enhancing and growing an active spirit-filled Stewardship Parish over many years. You also have a list of Stewardship Projects initiated by the school children, in recognition that Stewardship to be effective, has to encompass the entire community and be seen as community building and hospitality enabling before it is seen as a means of building the treasure. This parish has come to fully accept that **Stewardship has to become a Way of Life**.

The third major component of this Stewardship of Service packet is composed of articles and idea generators to affirm and recognize those in your parish community living the words of Christ, “**Whatever you do... you do for me.**” I especially want to thank those Stewardship Committees who send me their mailings, brochures, and flyers. I thank St. Peter the Fisherman for sending me, and now being sent to all of you as a model, of the form used to solicit names for Volunteer Appreciation Night. Patti Christensen, Family Life Consultant, has prepared some bulletin inserts and a list of Volunteer Center’s in the Diocese to help you find sources of outreach needing your parish member’s support.

In closing, I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to all of you, for your Stewardship homilies, reflections, committee work, witness talks, and leadership.

Sincerely,

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