

Dear Pastors, Parish Directors and Stewardship Coordinators:

Many thanks to all of you who shared your comments, thoughts, and reactions to the new format of the Stewardship Resource packets. Your feedback is very important to us as we strive to create user-friendly, parish-based materials. Our timing is a bit off with this packet but we are working to prioritize multiple projects and expect to be back on track with the Spring 2006 Stewardship Resource Packet on Service.

In addition to our usual listing of resources, ideas, and projects, this packet contains a brochure published by the Wisconsin Retreat International Centers. We live in a culture defined by speed, response times, down-sizing, multi-tasking, and where shaving seconds off of a clock can make or break a profit. Our parishioners report how difficult it is to find quiet time to devote to prayer, reflection, or meditation; many will need a personal invitation, lots of encouragement and support to ever consider a retreat experience. Perhaps your Stewardship Team, in collaboration with the Adult Education/Faith Formation Committee, might consider organizing a group retreat for parishioners. There are a multitude of retreat formats, surely something for everyone, and the staff at any of the Retreat Centers would be more than happy to assist you in your planning, design, and implementation .

Lastly, one of the goals of our department is to utilize technology more effectively in our Stewardship efforts, perhaps beginning with a regular posting of information via email. This will allow us to pass along resources and programs in a more timely fashion. If you would be interested in receiving resources this way, please email us with your electronic address and please include your name, parish, and the location of your parish in the body of the email. As always, we are open to your thoughts, suggestions, and ideas on how we might better serve your efforts at promoting stewardship as a way of life - prayer, service, and sharing – at the parish level.

In the peace of Christ,



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