

THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF STEWARDSHIP: HOW DOES SACRIFICIAL GIVING WORK IN THE STEWARDSHIP WAY OF LIFE?

Elements of the Stewardship Way of Life

- This is a WAY OF LIFE not a program...rooted in our Catholic faith!
- The emphasis on implementing this way of life is two-fold:
 - Teaching, preaching, enculturating the "spirituality of stewardship" in our parishes and all their ministries...especially schools!
 - The "nuts and bolts" of the model according to the 3-fold, biblically based tithing model of support.

Our Current "Set Up"

- Parishioners support the work of their parish by:
 - The giving of their time, talent, and treasure.
 - Income from large-scale events (Fall Suppers, Parish Picnics, etc.) often supplement the operational budget of the parish.
- The parish supports the diocese and the Universal Church:
 - Through the Cathedralicum - an assessment levied by the diocese to each parish.
 - Through a series of 2nd collections (both national and local)
 - Catholic Relief and Development, Infirm Priests Fund, Catholic Home Missions Appeal, Communications and Education, Diocesan Mission Collection, Retirement Fund for Religious, Archdiocese of the Military Services, Catholic Campaign For Human Development, Seminarian, Clergy Education & Priest Retirement.
 - Currently the Christmas (Seminarian) and Easter (Infirm Priest & Priest Retirement) collections are assessed by the diocese.
 - Throughout the Catholic Stewardship Appeal (CSA).
 - Parishioners are asked to donate directly to this diocesan appeal which supports the work and ministry of the chancery.

Our Renewed Emphasis Will Focus On:

- The Spirituality of Stewardship:
 - The conversion of life through intentional discipleship.
 - Leading to active participation of the laity in the life and mission of the Church.
- Giving as grateful stewards.
- Transparency and Fairness:
 - In the way the parish supports the diocese
 - Within the parish itself (building confidence amongst parishioners regarding the pastor's stewardship of parish resources)
- The Call to Accountability:
 - For clergy and laity alike

The Spirituality of Stewardship & The Biblical Tithe...A Symbiotic Relationship

- Scripturally based.
- The means by which the people of God emulate God's sacrificial giving.
- Emphasizes the concept of "First Fruits."
- Both a **SPIRITUAL** and **PRACTICAL** reality.

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In the New Model (CSR)

- Cathedraticum is eliminated
- CSA ceases. Replaced by CSR
- The "3 Tiered" Tithing Model will be put into place. People tithe to Parish. Parish tithes (10%) of **operational income** to the diocese as means of supporting the work of the chancery. Diocese tithes to support universal Church.
- Most 2nd collections will be eliminated.
 - Only Seminarian Formation and Infirm Priest (Christmas), Priest Retirement and Retirement for Religious (Easter), and Diocesan Mission Collection will remain. Only Christmas will be assessed.
- Funds raised through "Special Events" in the parish (parish picnics, fish fries, fall suppers, etc.) must be placed in restricted, deferred maintenance funds or endowments, instead of supporting operational expenses (which should be supported solely by the ordinary and ongoing giving of the members of the parish). These funds could also be applied toward true and approved capital campaigns

The Benefits of the CSR Model

- Biblically based and rooted in Christian spirituality (the most obvious benefit!)
- Simple, straightforward, and transparent.
- Fair and equitable across the board...no complex formulas to determine parish support.
- More active participation of laity in the mission of the Church.
- "When the tide rises and falls, all the boats rise and fall, too!"
 - As the parishes "go" so the chancery "goes."
- Transform the "why?"
 - From "**Paying the bills**" to "**Supporting the vision.**"

The Call to Accountability

An "active steward" demonstrates their commitment to Christ by pledging to:

- Actively **Pray** (attend Mass on weekends and Holy Days)
- **Participate** (by giving of their time and talent in the support of the life and ministry of the parish)
- **Sacrificially Give** (returning to God what is God's, in financial support of the work of His Church)





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Catholic Stewardship Renewal (CSR)

- We encourage accountability through participation in the CSR (Catholic Stewardship Renewal) process each October. This process asks all parishioners to:
 - **COMMIT** to using their time and talent for the betterment of the parish.
 - **PLEDGE** and stay current on a sacrificial gift of treasure to support the work of the parish.
- Even if they are giving the same amount, even if they are continuing in the same ministry or time commitment, this yearly re-pledging and re-committing gives parishioners the opportunity to:
 - **REVIEW** – are they actively participating in the life of the parish using their God given talents and sacrificially giving of their material gifts?
 - **REDIRECT** – do they need to redirect their time, talent and treasure?
 - **REAFFIRM** – confirming their pledged commitment of time, talent and treasure.
 - **RECOMMIT** – saying YES! I want to live the stewardship way of life and actively participate in the life of my parish.

The annual CSR process is not merely an administrative exercise, instead it is a communal activity, geared toward strengthening us on the road to discipleship. It is a parishioners' way of proclaiming "I am part of this community and – by my faith and commitment – supportive of the mission and vision."

Time + Talent + Treasure = Forming Active Participants...NOT Passive Recipients