

Suggestions for Implementing Children/Youth Stewardship in Your Parish:

- **Support** It is vital to enlist the support of the pastor, parish staff, Parish Council, DRE, and (in parishes with a school) the school principal and staff.
- **Education** Incorporate the language and examples of stewardship in all lessons. During your parish's stewardship renewal or commitment time framework, include specific lessons and activities on stewardship in your religious education classes at all age levels. Feature some of these activities such as posters, banners, projects, during the stewardship renewal/commitment season.
- **Children's Intention Card** To enable children/youth to recognize that sharing their time productively in helping others is a vital part of stewardship, provide suggestions for use of time on an intention card (e.g. visiting the elderly, helping with yard care, serving at Mass, sorting clothing or food during a clothing/food drive, praying for a special group intention, forming a children's choir, playing an instrument during Mass, etc.). Have the children/youth select one of these that they intend to do over a period of time. Periodically have the children/youth reflect on their commitment and share feelings and experiences.
- **Children/Youth Envelopes** Use envelopes for the children/youth of the parish that has a space allotted for use of time and talent as well as treasure. Use these notes as bulletin fillers or feature on a bulletin board on stewardship.
- **Witnessing** Ask a young person who is involved in a ministry or worthwhile project utilizing time and talent to share his/her experience as a viable witness to stewardship with other young people (e.g. classroom, liturgy, retreat, etc.). Have young people write an account of their stewardship activity, what it meant to them and what they learned from it. Publish in parish bulletin or newsletter.
- **Essays on Stewardship** Have children/youth write about their sharing of time and talent and how it affects the community in which they live. Have children/youth write about their understanding of stewardship as a way of life, a life of service and giving thanks to God. These could be the basis of a weekly column in the bulletin, newsletter, or stewardship letter.
- **Stewardship Recognition** During the Archdiocesan Stewardship Appeal or your parish commitment/renewal, have the children/youth from the school and religious education classes name an "outstanding steward" in their class. Present with certificates or simple awards.
- **Stewardship Fair** If your parish has a Time and Talent Sunday or a special time set aside for stewardship commitment/renewal, include the stewardship efforts of the children/youth in a Stewardship Fair. Each grade or class could show their stewardship efforts or their understanding of stewardship at a table, booth, etc. One spot at the Fair could include time/talent needs of the parish and community which the children (and adults) could sign up to do. Oftentimes these ideas spark a family's involvement in some community effort (e.g. Habitat for Humanity).
- **Prayer** Begin or close school and religious education classes with a prayer on stewardship. (See below for examples.) When using a stewardship prayer for closing, you might want to include a stewardship challenge (e.g. picking up all litter in schoolyard, backyard, etc.) or a stewardship reflection (e.g. every time you see a tree this week, say a prayer to thank God for all that trees provide us - shade, fruit, beauty, wood for houses, paper, etc.)

