

THE DIOCESE OF PUEBLO

Presents

THE STEWARDSHIP TOOLKIT

INTRODUCTION:

As many of you already know, The Diocese of Pueblo has transitioned from DMF to a new initiative -- **Advancing Missionary Discipleship (AMD)**! We have received various inquiries & requests from parishes on how to communicate & share the importance of stewardship as well as recommendations for tools & resources to help build a culture of stewardship. As a result, we have developed *The Stewardship Toolkit*.

One of our goals as a diocese is to create an atmosphere of stewardship. However, when attempting to do so, there are many things to take into consideration! Creating an atmosphere of stewardship is much more than simply asking for money. One must first understand what “stewardship” is, acknowledge the spiritual significance that it has & discover how it affects their local parish as well as the church at large! To put it simply, “stewardship” is a disciple’s response to God’s ask. We have all been given so many gifts & blessings by God. He now asks us to share those gifts with others for the benefit of His kingdom! These gifts include our *time, talent & treasure*.

The resources of *The Stewardship Toolkit* are here to empower & inspire your parish team to create that important atmosphere of stewardship. We invite you to download the enclosed materials & use them as you need! After all, you know your parishes the best! We truly hope this can help you get off to the right start & we eagerly await to see the fruit of your labor!

NOTE:

If you have any questions for us, we will be holding two Zoom calls on *The Stewardship Toolkit*!

The meetings will take place on **May 6th at 10AM & May 7th at 1:30PM.**

If you would like to join those calls, please email jdiiorio@dioceseofpueblo.org

In Christ,

Jimmy DiIorio // *Director of Development*

Christopher McGurn // *Communications Coordinator*

Joe'l DeYoung // *Chancellor*

FAQ'S:

What is *The Stewardship Toolkit*?

It's a collection of adaptable resources for parishes that provides a framework of practical resources, information, suggestions & tips for fostering a culture of stewardship. *The Stewardship Toolkit* is comprised of 6 components: Educational Resources, a 12-month Gratefulness Campaign, 7 Saints of Stewardship, 6 Stories of Diocesan Stewardship, Monthly Stewardship Activities & a 7-Video Stewardship Showcase of how stewardship has benefited various agencies throughout our diocese.

How can we use these resources?

All items in *The Stewardship Toolkit* will be provided in an electronic file enabling flexibility to print or copy/paste materials as needed. You can print them out, link them on your website, highlight them on your social media channels & include them in your bulletins & newsletters!

Is it mandatory that we use *The Stewardship Toolkit*?

Not at all! It's simply a comprehensive collection of stewardship resources to empower & inspire parishes in creating the culture of stewardship.

Do we need to use all the items provided in *The Stewardship Toolkit*?

No! All of the materials are to be used as *YOU* see fit! After all, *YOU* know your parish community the best! Use whatever you find helpful.

Can *The Stewardship Toolkit*'s contents be modified?

Absolutely! The materials in *The Stewardship Toolkit* can be adapted & customized for the needs of the parish community. We encourage you to think of your own ideas as well!

What is the Zoom call information for the two Q&A sessions?

To RSVP for **May 6th** or **May 7th**, please send an email to jdiiorio@dioceseofpueblo.org specifying which date you would like to attend.

THE STEWARDSHIP TOOLKIT BREAKDOWN:

(These don't need to be used in any particular order)

1.) TOOL #1 // STEWARDSHIP RESOURCES

- a. Before diving in, we find it very helpful to first understand the terminology & mentality associated with stewardship. In doing so, the rest of these tools will make more sense & come to life! These two resources will provide a foundation of where the church is coming from on stewardship. We also encourage you to explore the many USCCB documents, webinars, and white papers to learn & advance your stewardship skills!

i. International Catholic Stewardship Council (ICSC)

1. For over 55 years the ICSC has worked to promote & support Catholic teachings on stewardship by providing education & resources for dioceses, parishes & institutions of the Roman Catholic Church. Consider becoming a member or read their monthly Parish e-Bulletin!

February Issue:

https://catholicstewardship.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/ICSC-Parish-Enews_FEB-21_F.pdf

March Issue:

https://catholicstewardship.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/ICSC-Parish-eBulletin_March-21_F.pdf

ii. USCCB Stewardship: A Disciple's Response

1. This is a pastoral letter written for pastors, parish finance, development & stewardship committees that helps to understand & articulate the habits of a committed disciple of Jesus Christ. In 5 sections, this publication makes connections between stewardship, evangelization & Catholic social teaching & the challenges that consumerism & materialism are to the Christian steward.

Full PDF:

<https://d2y1pz2y630308.clodfront.net/20469/documents/2018/6/9-stewardship-a-disciples-response-1.pdf>

Overview PDF:

https://www.4lpi.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Stewardship_Nutshell.pdf

2.) TOOL #2 // GRATEFULNESS CAMPAIGN

- a. Thank your donors so that they understand their impact on your parish!
 - i. A donor should be thanked in multiple ways by multiple people.
 - ii. They should also be shown how their donation was used.
 1. Use the attached 12-month guide to help you!

3.) TOOL #3 // SEVEN SAINTS OF STEWARDSHIP

- a. Included in *The Stewardship Toolkit* are multiple saints that lived out a commitment to be Christ-centered by sharing their gifts for the work of God!
 - i. Share the attached stories in your bulletin, social media, website, etc.
 - ii. Discover more saints like the ones we provided!
 - iii. How was your parish patron a steward?

4.) TOOL #4 // SIX STORIES OF DIOCESAN STEWARDSHIP

- a. Everybody loves a good story! When people share their faith journey with others, it offers a powerful & personal connection!
 - i. Increase your parish engagement by sharing the attached faith testimonies of stewards across our diocese in your bulletin, newsletters & social media platforms.
 - ii. Tell your own stories of stewardship in your parishes by highlighting those in your parish community who share their time, talent & treasure!

5.) TOOL #5 // MONTHLY STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES

a. Make a “Blessing Tree”!

- i. This is a great way to focus on gratitude of the gifts God has given us!
 1. Encourage your community to think about their gifts as resources that they can give other than money. It’s so simple that it’s perfect for both young & old to make. Now you have a piece of décor to display in your parish to serve as a constant reminder of wonderful things in your lives!
- ii. Check out these examples of “Blessing Trees” as well as how to make one!
 1. <https://whatthebiblesaysdoctrine.wordpress.com/2013/12/25/the-blessing-tree/>
 2. <https://raisingarrows.net/blessing-tree/>
 3. <https://womenlivingwell.org/2011/11/the-blessing-tree/>
 4. <http://homejoys.blogspot.com/2009/11/blessing-tree.html>

b. The Widow’s Mite

- i. Using the Parable of the Talents as a guideline, we learn that we must receive God’s gifts gratefully, nurture God’s gifts responsibly, share God’s gifts generously & return God’s gifts in abundance!
 1. Surprise a handful of church attendees with envelopes under their seats with different gifts of cash (\$1, \$5, \$20 & \$50) with a challenge saying, “Everything is a gift that has been given by God. God has now entrusted you with this additional gift, & we challenge you to live generously with it!”
 2. The pastor then encourages the individuals to live generously & share their stories of “re-gifting”. These stories can be shared in your bulletin, social media, or website!

c. Sunday Celebration of Gratefulness

- i. Provide 3x5 note cards to the parish for 4 consecutive Sundays.
- ii. Each Sunday, people will respond to a different statement.
 1. 1st Sunday: God was closest to me in this church when...
 2. 2nd Sunday: One person in this church who has helped me grow spiritually is...
 3. 3rd Sunday: One ministry/program/activity of this church that has helped me grow spiritually is...
 4. 4th Sunday: A future vision that God has given me for this church is...
- iii. Share the cards on your social media, bulletins, websites, Blessing Tree, etc.

d. Stewardship Bingo

- i. The bingo card contains 24 spaces & one blank space.
- ii. Print out the attached bingo card for your parish community.
 1. Different variations of Bingo can be played (*diagonal, horizontal, vertical, U's, T's or blackout*)
- iii. Showcase a parishioner who completes the bingo card challenge & invite them to tell their story for your bulletin, social media, website, etc.

e. Stewardship Snippets

- i. Have children of all ages tell how they shared throughout that week & showcase it on your bulletin, social media, website, etc.
 1. Children often times have the best stories for this kind of thing!
 - a. Sharing toys, lunch, etc.

f. Spiritual Music Playlist

- i. Create a spiritual playlist & share it with a friend or family member!
 1. Music is a fantastic way to start conversations & learn about a person! People are often inspired by music & love to discuss it!
 2. "What songs mean the most to you & why?"
 3. Here are some apps you can use:
 - a. Spotify
 - b. YouTube
 - c. Apple Music
 - d. Soundshare

g. Take a Spiritual Gifts/Charisms Quiz

- i. Discover your spiritual charisms by taking a quick quiz!
- ii. This is a great way to learn about, engage & strengthen your parishioners! This will teach you how your parishioners enjoy serving, where they would thrive the most, etc.
- iii. There are many great quizzes to try! Go online to find one that best suits you!

6.) TOOL #6 // BISHOP'S STEWARDSHIP SHOWCASE

a. Stewardship is at work throughout The Diocese of Pueblo! See for yourself with the 7 videos below that feature some of our amazing entities across our 50,000 square miles!

i. Holy Family School // Grand Junction

1. Video: <https://f.io/jqKXQW-d>

ii. Grand Valley Catholic Outreach // Grand Junction

1. Video: https://f.io/QBSa_6Nr

iii. The Catholic Foundation // Pueblo

1. Video: <https://f.io/9qR0cH3l>

iv. Hispanic Affairs Project // Montrose

1. Video: <https://f.io/hBFzY4NF>

v. Catholic Charities // Pueblo

1. Video: <https://f.io/8Zdj3SeI>

vi. St. Columba Catholic School // Durango

1. Video: <https://f.io/SCBAHTyA>

vii. The Capuchin Poor Clares // Pueblo

1. Video: <https://f.io/uXneiBqp>