



# Stewardship System Resources

*March 2021*

Hello,

I hope your stewardship committee and church community are journeying well through the season of Lent.

About this time of year, churches often begin to consider a possible fall capital campaign. Starting now will set you up well for such an endeavor. If we at Church Development can assist you in a campaign, please give us a call. We tailor our campaign structure to serve churches of all sizes and denominations.

Best wishes to you for a fruitful Lent.

As always, [let us know](#) how we can be of assistance to you in your stewardship ministry,

Sincerely,  
Denis Greene  
President  
Church Development

## Monthly Stewardship Committee Agenda March 2021

**Instructions:** use this agenda template to run your monthly stewardship committee meeting. Transfer the content to a Word document. You may modify or adjust the agenda as needed. Add your church logo and print a copy of the agenda for each committee member. The chair of your committee should lead the meeting.

Stewardship Committee Agenda

[Enter your church's logo here]

[Enter the Date Here]

1. Open in prayer
  - a. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 - Paul writes: *"The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."*
  - b. Discussion Questions: Among the many activities recorded about St. Paul, it's easy to overlook one effort he took very seriously and obviously worked hard at: a collection for needy church members in Jerusalem. He mentions it in a number of his letters, including this 9th chapter of 2 Corinthians, and must have preached about it many times.

Which brings up this month's committee discussion topic, the monthly stewardship testimony presentation by a member of your congregation. Here are some issues to discuss:

- i. How are we keeping stewardship in front of our congregation?
    - ii. Are we continuing to solicit testimonies from members?
    - iii. Are we helping them to prepare? Have we made the materials in this newsletter available to them?
3. Review Action Items from last meeting
4. Read this month's Stewardship System Insight provided by Church Development
5. View Stewardship System training video.
6. Review your [Stewardship System Checklist](#)
  - a. Determine action for any stewardship culture building activities for the month
  - b. Determine action for next special appeal letter.
  - c. Monthly Stewardship System Checklist
    - i. Place stewardship inserts in bulletin
    - ii. Recruit layperson to give stewardship testimony
    - iii. Place article in newsletter
    - iv. Set date for next month's Committee Meeting
7. Update on status of annual stewardship campaign efforts.
8. New items of business
9. Close in prayer

## Stewardship System Insight March 2021

### *The Role of Prayer in Stewardship Ministry*

Prayer is vital to everything we do as we seek the direction of the Holy Spirit to empower our lives. Ephesians 6:18; Colossians 4:2-3 According to Dr. Molly Marshall (Marshall 2009), President of Central Baptist Theological Seminary, of the four types of prayer (praise, repentance, intercession, and thanks), the prayer for intercession is the one we most use. We seek two kinds of intercession from God, (1) help with our problems and (2) enlightenment. In this chapter, our key interest is prayers to seek enlightenment. When we pray in this way, we ask God for discernment. Once we learn to base our decisions (including how we use our gifts) on these prayers, our lives begin to align with God's specific plans for us.

A boy and his father were walking along the road when they came to a large stone. The boy said to his father, "Do you think if I use all my strength, I can move this rock?" His father answered, "If you use all your strength, I am sure you can do it." The boy began to push the rock. Exerting himself as much as he could, he pushed and pushed. The rock did not move. Discouraged, he said to his father, "You were wrong. I can't do it." His father placed his arm around the boy's shoulder and said, "No, son. You didn't use all your strength — you didn't ask me to help." — (Wolpe 1993)

#### PLACE PRAYER AT THE CENTER

Prayer at the center of our life means resting in God and drawing emotional and physical strength from the discipline of prayer. It leads us to "live and see through God that everything belongs" (Rohr 1999). Prayer and reflection are the primary avenues of growing and developing spiritually. Prayer ignites the energy to go forth and live out our Christian commitments of sharing and caring for others. We must build a culture in our churches where prayer is the center.

#### GET PAST THE REQUEST LINE

Help members understand that praying is much more than a simple request line. God desires a two-way conversation in which we listen as much as talk. Prayer opens us up to do what scripture calls us to do. Prayer opens us up to being good stewards in ways that nothing else can do because it gives God an opportunity to change our hearts about generosity. For this to happen, our members must get comfortable with prayer.

#### HELP MEMBERS GET COMFORTABLE WITH PRAYER

Individualization in prayer is a good thing. Just as people have different conversational styles, they naturally have different prayer styles. Some enjoy a structured form of prayer. Others prefer a more creative, expressive method of prayer. When we pray in a way that is natural for us, we are more likely to be drawn to prayer rather than feel forced to do something because we think we should. Encourage your members to try a variety of approaches to prayer such as the following.

Pray the scripture	Select a short passage of scripture. Read it aloud a few times. Sit quietly and listen to how God speaks to you from the passage.
Journal your prayers	Write each prayer in a journal. Record your experiences with God related to the prayers. Record how God answers your prayers.
Listen to music	Listen to music that stills or stirs your soul. Pray.
Walk the labyrinth	Walk among a labyrinth to quiet your mind and release thoughts of the outside world. Pray as you walk.
Walk and pray	Go for a walk. Allow God to put you in tune with His creation. Walk and pray.
Breathe	Become conscious of your breathing. Focus on slowing your breathing. As you relax, begin to pray.
Lectio Divina	Lectio divina (divine reading) is an approach that calls you to study, ponder, listen, and then pray directly from God's Word.

## *Personal Reflection*

### EVOLVING

My own approach to prayer and discernment has evolved through my sometimes reckless, but full life. In the introduction to this book, I tell the story of my career path and how I took a 180 degree turn because of a prayer. In that instance I had been mistaken for a Cuban mercenary in an Angolan civil war and was about to be executed. The prayer changed my life forever: "Dear God, into your hands I commend my soul." I did not know that God would accept my offer, save my life, and then gently guide me into work that was in service to the church. Days after my close call with death, I contracted malaria, broke my arm, and suffered a bout of dysentery. Was this God's way of reminding me that my life would – despite these setbacks – be full of surprises? When I recovered from my illnesses, I started a business importing sewing machine needles. The market retail price for a single foot treadle sewing machine needle was the equivalent of \$5.00, or a tailor's daily wage. In Johannesburg I could buy the same needle for ten cents wholesale. I invested everything I had in needles at ten cents each and then

imported them into Kinshasa where I was living. My meager savings quickly ballooned when I wholesaled the needles for \$1.00 each. I also purchased art in the Marche De Voleurs and exported it to art shops in Johannesburg – with a 100% markup. Entrepreneurialism was lining my pockets. With ready cash, plenty of time, and enough testosterone to power a freighter, I took off on the continental motorcycle trip of my dreams – an excursion across Africa.

-An excerpt from *The Stewardship System* by Denis Greene  
[Downloadable eBook available](#)

## Monthly Leadership Training Video:

### *The Role of Prayer in Stewardship*

**Instructions:** show this video during your monthly stewardship committee meeting. These video clips will provide meaningful training for your team. All Church Development training videos are now available online in a video library format. The site can be found under the Resources main menu tab on the website. [Click here to view the video library](#). Note: you will need internet access to view this video. You may also need projection equipment and sound system for acceptable viewing quality.

## Monthly Stewardship Newsletter Article – March 2021

**Instructions:** place this article in your monthly church newsletter under a “Stewardship Column” heading. You might title the column: “Stewardship Corner” or “Time, Talents, and Treasures.”

Lent 2021

“Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to God than they are?” Matthew 6:26

God is your loving parent and will always care for you. God's care may appear through your neighbor's kindness, or your parents' love, or your friend's thoughtfulness, or from the actions of someone totally unknown. Where do you see God's concern for you in your life? How do you show God's love to others?

## Weekly Bulletin Inserts – March 2021

### CATHOLIC BULLETIN INSERTS

**March 7, 2021**

**3rd Sunday in Lent**

*“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”* Jn 4:13-14

Lent is often seen as a season of wandering in the desert. We wander with the hope that there is an eternal spring, Christ himself, toward whom we are journeying. One who will quench our thirst eternally.

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**March 14, 2021**

**4th Sunday in Lent**

*“...so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”* John 3:21

Lent is a good time to further align our deeds with those of God. A Christian steward strives always to do that which God would want to see done.

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**March 21, 2021**

**5th Sunday in Lent**

*Although Christ was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.* Hebrews 5:8

Although suffering is part of life, Christians have always sought to alleviate suffering wherever possible. A steward seeks out ways to soften the difficulties of life for family and friends, for neighbors and those far away.

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**March 28, 2021**

**Palm Sunday**

*“Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!”* Mark 11:9

Palm Sunday reminds us that the One called the King of the Jews was the servant of all. How can we serve too?

## REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY (PROTESTANT) BULLETIN INSERTS

**March 7, 2021**

**3rd Sunday in Lent**

*For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18*

Lent is a foolishness to many people, but to we Christians it can be a time of spiritual growth and healing, a time of grace and forgiveness, a time of challenge and hope.

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## Monthly Stewardship Testimony March 2021

**Instructions:** Have a lay person deliver a stewardship testimony this month. For your convenience, we have provided guidelines for the person giving the testimony to follow. You may want to have this person touch base with the pastor or the person in charge of service programming to go over the testimony prior to delivery. Use this script or share a similar stewardship-related vignette during services on the first Sunday of the month.

### Stewardship Campaign Testimony Guidelines

Thank you for agreeing to share your stewardship testimony at a service this month. This is a great opportunity to show how God has used giving to help you grow spiritually and help build His Kingdom. We greatly appreciate your willingness to assist our stewardship training efforts so others will also grow in the grace of giving.

These guidelines are provided to help you prepare your remarks. If you have questions, please contact your pastor or priest. God's blessings to you as you share.

1. **Suggested length:** your testimony should be two to three minutes long.
  - 1.1. Please time yourself prior to sharing so that you are certain your comments will fit the time frame.
2. **What to talk about:** Make sure to start your talk by including a definition of "What is stewardship?"
  - 2.1. Personal stories are always best.
  - 2.2. Recount the ways in which you've been blessed.
  - 2.3. Please share from the heart about why you give of your time, talent, and treasure.
3. **Where you will stand:** please come to the front of the church and the pastor will provide you with a microphone.
4. **During what part of the service will I speak?** You will share just before the sermon.
5. **What other tips can you give me to help deliver a successful testimony?**
  - 5.1. Speak clearly and at an easy pace.
  - 5.2. Look at your audience
  - 5.3. Share from the heart
  - 5.4. Animate your voice
  - 5.5. Tell stories
  - 5.6. Practice beforehand
6. **Sample Testimony:**
  - 6.1. My giving journey began when I was in college. I was working at Little Caesar's Pizza earning a check for the first time. I attended a Christian Rock Concert where they were promoting sponsoring a child in a third world country. When I looked at my take home pay, I realized that the monthly sponsorship cost was equal to about 10% of my earnings. For \$20 a month, a child would receive food, clothes, education, and Christian training. I felt very strongly that God was calling me to do it, so I sent off for a packet and received a picture of Pierre Juanil, a little Haitian

boy. From that day on I was hooked on giving. It was so great to see the impact even a small donation could make, and since that day, I have always given 10% or more of my monthly income to groups that do God's work. The bible says that if you sow generously, you will reap generously, and I can say that I've found this to be true. God has blessed me for giving obediently, and the real reward has been that I've grown in my faith and grown closer to Him. I hope this year's stewardship campaign will be a moment where your life intersects with God's plan and you experience the joy of giving.

Congratulations! You have completed all the tasks for this month's Stewardship System. Have your committee follow-up any action items as needed. We will send next month's information two weeks before the first day of the month.

If you have questions, or if we can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us [via our website](#) or through our Stewardship System hotline at: 816-333-8111.