

Caring AND Sharing



AND
Returning God's Gifts



A Guide for Stewardship for Children and
Youth

Table of Contents

Introduction - A letter from Bishop Baker	Page 3
A Special Note to Pastors	Page 5
A Note to DRE s, Religious Education Coordinators, Religious Education Catechists	Page 5
What is Stewardship?	Page 6
Before You Begin*	
Role of the Pastor	Page 7
Role of the Program Coordinator	Page 7
Role of Parish Advisory Council	Page 8
Role of the Parish Stewardship Committee	Page 8
Role of Other Parish Staff	Page 9
Role of the Parents	Page 11
Reinforcement to Children s Commitments*	
Activities and Resources	Page 12
Suggested Timeline	Page 15
Coordinating Effort with Parish Stewardship Program	Page 15
Stewardship Opportunities: Pre-School Through High School*	
Pre-School Stewardship Opportunities	Page 16
Elementary Stewardship Opportunities	Page 16
Middle School Stewardship Opportunities	Page 17
High School Stewardship Opportunities	Page 18
Presenting the GOD JAR at Mass	Page 18
Resources	
Stewardship for Children and Teens Stewardship Resources .	Page 20
Speakers on Children s Stewardship*	Page 22
Publishers with Children s Stewardship Materials*	Page 22
Children s Stewardship Story Books*	Page 23
Sample Envelopes	Page 25
Sample Newsletters	Page 27
Children s Stewardship Song*	Page 31
Photo-ready Graphics page	Page 32

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Children s Stewardship Manual



THE DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON

Dear Stewards in Christ,

This year represents the 20th anniversary of the United States Catholic Council of Bishop's pastoral letter, "*Stewardship, A Disciples Response*." The Diocese of Charleston has made many efforts in the years following the pastoral letter's publication to promote the spirit of Stewardship throughout our boundaries. Many of you have participated in our diocesan Stewardship Days, viewed our *Conversations in Stewardship* videos and used several of our guides. Today, we open a new chapter with the creation of the diocesan "Guide for Stewardship for Children and Youth."

This guide is another resource to help you and your parish expand your existing Stewardship efforts. If our Stewardship efforts are to bear future fruit, we must reach our young people which is the purpose of this guide. This resource is a compilation of many successful Children's Stewardship efforts throughout the country and within our own diocese. I sincerely hope the information contained within this guide will assist you reaching out to the young people of the Diocese of Charleston.

Our Diocesan Office of Stewardship and Mission Advancement has adopted the slogan, "Building up the Kingdom Today." That is our purpose as Catholic Stewards, to build the Lord's Kingdom here in the Diocese of Charleston, through our time, our talent and our treasure.

May God bless you in your efforts to promote Stewardship, and be assured you are in my prayers. Together, we will Build up the Kingdom here in South Carolina!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. J. Baker".

Most Reverend Robert J. Baker
Bishop of Charleston

Office of the Bishop

A Special Note to Pastors

The material in this guidebook is designed to be a resource for you and your parish leaders to promote and nurture the spirit of Stewardship for children and youth. This is not a program or a campaign which we are asking you to embark on. Our Parish Guide to Stewardship for Children and Youth is simply a collection of best practices which may be useful to your parish.

Ideally, your parish should have a Stewardship Committee. If you do not have one, it might be a good idea to appoint a person within the parish to spearhead your stewardship efforts. The diocesan Office of Stewardship and Mission Advancement would be more than happy to meet with you, your committee or individuals involved in your parish stewardship efforts to get things started.

In order for our children to grow up and become good and faithful stewards of their time, talent and treasure, it is necessary for them to begin a stewardship way of life early in their lives. Please use this guide to continue to nurture and promote the spirit of stewardship within your parish. Together, we will Build up the Kingdom here in South Carolina!

A Note to Religious Education Directors, Catechists, and Religious Education Coordinators

There is no need to panic because you have been asked to teach stewardship to your students. All children learn about their call to discipleship through baptism. As their relationship with God is formed they begin to understand their responsibility to live as Jesus lived and to acknowledge God's many gifts. God works through them while serving the poor, spreading the Good News, and taking care of everything God has given them. Therefore, as disciples, they are stewards of everything God entrusts to them.

This life of stewardship is presented in most texts according to the children's age and stage of development. Most likely your children are already involved in one or two stewardship deeds such as donating canned food at Thanksgiving. This is one facet of stewardship. As you help nurture the children's Christian formation, your challenge will be to teach them to live a life of stewardship every day beginning today.



What is Stewardship?

At the base of stewardship is a strong emphasis on public and private prayer, including the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. A strong spirituality is at the base of this successful stewardship effort.

The ability of our diocese to reach where needed depends on the spirit of stewardship rekindled in our hearts by the Lord.

Bishop Robert J. Baker

Stewardship is based on the idea that all we have and all we are comes from God.

In order to thank God for our many blessings, we must give back a portion of the time, talent and treasure that God has blessed us with.

Stewardship is not a program, rather it is an attitude, a way of life.

Stewardship calls for us to share ourselves, to be a holy people, to step up and to take the risk of walking with our savior, Jesus Christ.

We are all called to be disciples and caretakers of God's many gifts.

Stewardship is not about tithing, sacrificial giving or fund raising.

Stewardship is about conversion and discipleship.

Before You Begin

Role of the Pastor

A pastor will be successful in fostering stewardship among the children and youth of his parish if he is committed to promoting stewardship as a way of life for himself and the rest of the parish adults. With the pastor and the rest of the parish actively committed to a stewardship way of life, the children and youth will be witnesses to stewardship-in-action. In addition to making his own personal commitment to stewardship visible to the children and youth of the parish, the pastor can:

Pray that the children and youth will embrace stewardship as a way of life and that they will experience spiritual growth as they follow in Jesus' footsteps.

Visit the children's Faith Formation classes on a regular basis to spend some time in prayer with them, while encouraging them to be good stewards of their time, talent and treasure.

Take advantage of the Sunday Scripture readings that are reflective of a stewardship way of life, and include some ways in which children and youth can respond to that scripture reading in their own lives.

Meet with the parish and school staff and leadership to promote and encourage stewardship education for the children and youth of the parish.

Encourage the parish Stewardship Committee to form a subcommittee to coordinate the children's stewardship efforts.

Personally participate and encourage parish and school leadership to participate in diocesan in-service programs for children's stewardship education.

Encourage the inclusion of children and youth in all annual parish stewardship renewals including prayer, ministry, sacrificial giving and the Bishop's Stewardship Appeal.

Role of the Parish Advisory Council

As the primary advisory council to the pastor regarding matters of a pastoral nature, the Parish Pastoral Council needs to avail itself of every opportunity to understand the theology and spirituality of stewardship, the practical aspects of stewardship, and the process of stewardship education in the parish. To this end, the Parish Pastoral Council should be encouraged to invite a member of the Stewardship Committee to report on the ongoing awareness activities throughout the year, which should include information on stewardship for children and youth. As part of its own ongoing formation, the Pastoral Council should consider attending diocesan Stewardship Days and workshops. Many dioceses now include a session on stewardship for children and youth. Parishes may want to consider sending members of the Pastoral Council to the International Catholic Stewardship Council's Conference each year. An informed Pastoral Council will be better able to support stewardship activities in the parish.

The enthusiasm and support of the Parish Pastoral Council often determines the success of many parish projects. Stewardship for children and youth is no exception. It is important that the members of

the Pastoral Council understand and encourage others in the parish to embrace stewardship efforts for the young people.

Role of the Parish Stewardship Committee

Since the Parish Stewardship Committee is responsible for the ongoing education and commitment of parishioners to the stewardship of time, talent, and treasure, then it is ultimately their responsibility to coordinate the activities of stewardship for children and youth. When a parish makes the decision to include children's stewardship, it is advisable to form a subcommittee of the Parish Stewardship Committee to handle the details of this effort. The Children's Stewardship Subcommittee should include two or three members of the Stewardship Committee who are interested in promoting stewardship among the children and the youth. Other members of the subcommittee might include a youth representative, the DRE, the School Principal, a catechist, youth minister, and concerned parents. The responsibilities of the Subcommittee on Stewardship for Children and Youth can include the following:

Include children and youth in the annual stewardship renewals. Invite the children to participate in the lay witness talks, the signing of commitment cards and the presentation of the cards at the offertory.

Recruit children/youth to share their personal feelings about stewardship with the other children of the parish.

Keep a list of current time and talent opportunities for the children and youth. In many cases children would be welcome participants in adult ministries. Be sure to include those on the list.

Ensure that those children who sign a commitment card are contacted. This is especially important where children are concerned, because we are forming their future perception of stewardship as well as their current participation.

Publicize some of the children's time and talent gifts in the parish bulletin or newsletter.

Develop counting and accounting procedures for the children's envelopes. Some smaller parishes might leave this for the regular money counters, while larger parishes may have volunteers or members of the Subcommittee on Stewardship for Children and Youth handle these procedures.

Provide information on stewardship for children and youth in the parish booklet racks. Keep up with the latest resources for stewardship education for children and youth, and provide updated information to youth ministers and catechists.

Include a children's stewardship profile or article in the parish newsletter several times a year.

Provide in-service education for members of your subcommittee. Take advantage of diocesan and national stewardship gatherings. Stewardship for children and youth is almost certain to be one of the agenda items.

Role of Other Parish Staff

Parish Stewardship Director

Many larger parishes have found it beneficial to hire a full or part-time staff member to oversee

the parish stewardship effort, coordinate the time and talent components of the stewardship effort, and keep ongoing awareness activities alive in the parish. The Parish Stewardship Director would work with the directors of the various children's ministries to be sure that those children who volunteer are contacted.

Director of Religious Education and Staff

The parish DRE is responsible for the entire Religious Education program, which includes the element of stewardship in the curriculum. The religious education staff can foster stewardship in a number of ways:

Provide education opportunities on stewardship for the children and youth. Help the children understand the meaning of stewardship and the role that it has in their own lives.

Provide education and training to parents so that they are able to share the gift of their Catholic faith with their children.

Work with parish staff to implement a stewardship focus in all areas of parish life.

Model good stewardship of parish religious education resources-funds, materials and facilities.

Foster connections with neighboring parishes, especially through the deanery (vicariate) structure to enhance networking in the area of stewardship.

Provide opportunities for families to work together as good stewards of time and talent.

Change the words service hours to stewardship time. The term service hours tends to denote a requirement for the completion of a course of study. Use of stewardship will place service in a spiritual context of gratitude to God for all He has given.

Identify and establish a stewardship focus person for the religious education program. This might be a catechist who would also serve on the subcommittee for children's and youth stewardship, or a person who would serve as a liaison between the religious education staff and the diocesan stewardship director. This person would be responsible for providing updated resources for the rest of the catechists.

Respect and incorporate the talents and gifts of all cultural traditions. Celebrate the cultural diversity found in our country by recognizing and affirming the gifts of all nationalities and ethnic groups.

Director of Youth Ministry

The Director of Youth Ministry is responsible for the catechetical, social, and service opportunities provided for the middle and high school youth of the parish. The teenage years can be both challenging and fruitful in promoting stewardship. Ways in which the Director of Youth Ministry can help foster stewardship include the following:

Be educated about stewardship. Attend workshops and seminars to stay personally informed about stewardship.

Model examples of stewardship in their own lives. Teenagers are more apt to embrace stewardship if their youth ministers are living examples of what it means to be a good steward of God's many gifts.

Provide stewardship education opportunities for the youth. Include a mini-course on stewardship as part of the curriculum. Include a discussion of the role stewardship plays in their lives.

Provide meaningful time and talent stewardship opportunities for the youth.

Advocate youth involvement in all areas of parish life. Promote youth as lectors, Eucharistic ministers, greeters, and ushers. Encourage parish commissions to invite youth to participate as active members.

Encourage tithing/proportionate giving by youth to parish of fertility, parish projects, special collections, and other charitable organizations. Many teenagers have jobs with more disposable income than many adults do. They should be encouraged to give back with gratitude.

Encourage youth to tithe a percentage of the money they raise in fundraising activities to the parish or other causes. Most parish youth groups raise enough money on their car washes, bake sales, or candy sales to return some of the profits to help those in need and still have enough to fund their social activities.

Encourage family participation in stewardship time and talent activities.

Focus on prayer. Encourage the youth to be good stewards of their time by including time for formal prayer each day. Provide prayerful retreat experiences for the youth. Be sure to include young people if the parish sponsors an annual stewardship of prayer commitment.

The School Principal

As the chief catechist in the school, the principal has the responsibility of promoting stewardship among the students and staff. The school principal may foster stewardship in some of the following ways:

Provide resources and/or schedule workshops for teachers to learn more about the theology of stewardship. The diocesan director of stewardship has resources that can be made available to teachers. Stewardship workshops are often included at diocesan education conferences.

Integrate a children's stewardship prayer into various areas of Catholic school programs - Liturgy, morning prayer, assemblies, etc.

Promote the concept of community service and service hours as stewardship opportunities.

Choose a theme for a month promoting stewardship, acknowledging existing activities and cultivating new ideas.

Network with social service and outreach organizations to promote opportunities for students to give of their time, talent, and treasure.

Promote stewardship activities within school staff - campus ministry, development director, religion coordinator, and volunteer coordinator.

Role of the Parents

The example of the parent is the primary way a child learns to give. Giving is one of those values that is caught rather than taught. Parents need to be living models of stewardship for their children. In addition to modeling the stewardship way of life for their children, they should tell them why they are giving of their time, talent and treasure. Make the children aware of the joy, peace, and happiness that come with a commitment to stewardship. Children should be asked and encouraged to join their parents in some of their stewardship activities. Some specific ways that parents can foster stewardship in their children might include:

Provide their children with a vision of a sharing, generous, accountable way of life. (1992 U.S. Bishops Pastoral Letter, Stewardship: A Disciples Response).

Instill in their children an attitude of gratitude by reminding them that all we have, are and will be is a gift from God.

Make prayer a part of the daily family life, especially prayers of gratitude.

Discern, nurture, and share their own gifts so that they can model a stewardship way of life for their children.

Guide their children in discerning their own gifts and provide them with opportunities in which to share them; thereby building up God's Kingdom.

Fulfill their promise as stewards of baptized children to educate them in their Catholic faith, teaching them that they are part of the Universal Church.

Grow spiritually as faithful stewards by participating at Mass and by receiving the sacraments regularly.

Encourage their children to give a proportionate amount of their allowance, cash gifts, and earnings to the parish and/or other charitable organizations.



Reinforcement to Children's Commitments

Like adult education programs, ongoing reference to the concept of stewardship is vital. It can serve as an important reminder to children. These references can be in different forms. If children see and hear this message around them through the actions of their parents, teachers, religious men and women, and clergy, or read about it in newsletters or bulletins, they will be more inclined to live this life themselves. In a subtle way, the stewardship educational process converts our children to the way of life that Jesus taught.

Children can also recognize stewardship, or at least the personal need to be good stewards, by associating this concept with worldwide and local events. Children can become more cognizant of society around them by learning what is just and unjust. As they consider their own stewardship now at a young age, they will have the strong faith foundation to make a difference in their adult lives.

As in the case with the suggested class activities found in this manual, there is unlimited potential in devising creative methods with which to instruct our children. The goal should be to remind the

children of their responsibility to God and to others. Some of these activities are as follows:

Children s Stewardship Corner in Parish Bulletin

Some of the ways that the children are expressing their stewardship of time and talent could be listed on a regular basis in the bulletin. The personal experiences shared by the children can be touching and humorous. The children often like to continually read the parish bulletin to check if their gifts of time or talent are listed. A report regarding their collective financial support should also be noted in the bulletin in a similar fashion as the traditional adult reporting. Other items that can be noted include an invitation for new families to get children s envelopes from the church, and suggested stewardship-oriented activities. One such activity is a Time and Talent Salute wherein a different parishioner is profiled each week for his or her contributions of time and talent to the parish. Children certainly should be included in this ritual.

Children s Liturgy

The celebrant of the children s daily/weekly Liturgy can be reminded about coordinating the Biblical concept of tithing with the readings or Gospel of the day. Liturgy Planners should be aware that this is the easiest method in which to continually remind the children. A parallel can always be drawn between this life-style and Holy Scriptures.

Guest Speakers

Periodically during the class year, invite missionaries to speak in the classroom about their Third World assignments. The diocesan Propagation of the Faith office may be a possible resource in scheduling missionaries. Also, invite parents or individuals who have provided stewardship witness in church to describe what stewardship means to them.

Materials from H.C.A. or S.P.O.F.

Utilize any resource material available from your diocesan representatives or from the national offices of the Holy Childhood Association (HCA) and the Society for the Propagation of the Faith (SPOF). These resources are helpful in promoting the stewardship concept while raising consciousness about the world around us. Such materials include the SPOF video, *On Mission*, the HCA video, *In Search of Sudan*, and the HCA publication, *It s Our World*.

Poster Competition

Year-round poster competition can be initiated based on everything the children have learned during the process. The children can provide an illustration of the experiences they have recorded on their offertory envelopes in recent weeks. Also, allow the Stewardship Posters to remain hanging in the classrooms throughout the year.

Verbal Reporting of Time and Talent Experiences

Periodically, have the students recall their most outstanding expression of stewardship of time or talent from past offertory envelopes. Have each child report on or describe his or her experience. There are many benefits to this exercise: gives child public speaking experience; serves as personal witness to others similar to the adult program; subtle reminder to use the children s envelopes on a regular basis; and, encourages careful and prayerful consideration of their weekly gifts of time, talent and treasure when recording these items on their envelopes.

News Releases

Submit stories, articles or editorials to the editor of your diocesan newspaper, *The New Catholic Miscellany*, or secular newspaper. Journalists are always interested in human-interest stories and school/parish activities. Contact the media whenever a project is being undertaken or concluding at your school with regard to stewardship.

Resources

A variety of resource materials are used in arch/diocesan stewardship education programs throughout the country. Samples of these materials along with some creative activities or classroom projects are found in this manual. The following descriptions apply to the basic resources that are common among most of these programs.

Envelopes

Since everything in a child's life (and in an adult's life too) is a gift from God, children are invited to reflect on those blessings periodically, usually on a weekly basis. The children's envelope is traditionally enlarged which enables the children to note their gifts of their time, talent and treasure on the outside of the envelope. Even if no money is placed in the envelope, the children should write down their gifts of time and their gifts of talent for that week.

The envelopes suggested in this manual (whether personally designed or purchased from an envelope vendor) illustrate these notations of sharing time and talent. And specifically, any money that is enclosed in the envelope should represent a free-will offering from the child's resources and not change handed to them by their parents.

The children's practice of using their envelopes stimulates the offertory portion of the Liturgy and brings about a renewed spirit of almsgiving. It also illustrates that gifts other than money can be offered to God and are equally sacrificial. By encouraging the children to use their redesigned offertory envelopes, parish and school administrators are shaping the conversion process and reinforcing the message in the U.S. Bishops Pastoral, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, "Christian disciples experience conversion-life-shaping changes of mind and heart - and commit their very selves to the Lord..."

Some parishes use box sets that are convenient to hand out to children. Others have found it effective to send out packets of eight to twelve envelopes to the children every two to three months. Kids enjoy receiving mail and it provides an ongoing reminder of what is expected of them and the desire of the parish to have them participating.

One way to encourage envelope usage is to ask the children to complete their envelope on a Friday night or Saturday morning preceding the weekend liturgy. Parents should be urged to help their children get this accomplished. This weekly evaluation of their gifts of time and talent will be a fruitful experience and will help them to know that serving others is a fun experience.

Letters from the Pastor

Often the educational process is preceded by letters sent from the pastor to key people involved in the effort including teachers, the parents of the children in the school and religious education program and to the children themselves. The introductory letters recognize their contributions of time, talent and treasure to the parish and/or school community, and invite their participation in the stewardship process. In most cases, the children are encouraged to use redesigned offertory envelopes. Follow-up takes place with those who did not participate by using their envelopes. In subsequent weeks, other letters may be sent recognizing their participation.

It is considered more likely that children will enthusiastically continue using the offertory envelopes if they receive this positive reinforcement. Similarly, the pastor could send periodic letters emphasizing that the children keep up the good work.

Brochure

An informational brochure is also often used to help introduce children's stewardship. The brochure can be distributed in class or included in one of the mailings from the pastor to the children. It consists of a simple, basic explanation of the importance of giving back a portion of one's time, talent and treasure to God. Many brochures offer examples of these elements. For example, a child's stewardship of time might include prayer at all meals with family members or reciting the Rosary. Similarly, their expression of talent might be a listing of chores performed without oversight, or a reflection of doing a good deed for another person that week. Finally, the traditional accounting of the child's financial gift or stewardship of treasure is observed.

Suggested Timeline for Stewardship Program for Children and Youth

A Stewardship program for Children and Youth can begin at any time of the year. It should, however, be coordinated with the adult Stewardship renewal process. The most logical time to begin a stewardship program for Children and Youth is in September in conjunction with the beginning of the school year. Each parish is different and unique. Depending on your parish's needs and available resources, the following should serve as a guide.

It is encouraged that pastors send letters to both children and adults reinforcing the spirit of Stewardship. Parishes should also utilize the parish bulletin to place Stewardship-related blurbs on a weekly basis. Anytime stewardship can be incorporated into a celebrant's homilies throughout the year is also a very effective method.

Coordination With Parish Stewardship Programs

In our stewardship guide for parishes, we have stressed the importance of maintaining a stewardship emphasis throughout the year. The parish guide sets forth suggestions for conducting three or four separate stewardship efforts at separate times during the year. Some parishes may wish to combine several of these into a single campaign, but still maintain emphasis on the four essential areas:



Stewardship of Prayer conducted during the seasons of Lent or Advent.

Stewardship of Time and Talent conducted perhaps at the beginning or the end of the school year.

Stewardship of Sacrificial Giving or Tithing perhaps conducted at the same time as the Bishop's Stewardship Appeal.

In each case, the preceding pages have given suggestions for children's activities which would fit well into each of these categories. What is most important is that the children's stewardship effort be coordinated with the rhythm of the parish stewardship year.

Stewardship Opportunities Pre-School through High School

Pre-School Stewardship Opportunities

Birthday Party for Jesus: The pre-schoolers are invited to a birthday for Jesus at their regular Religious Education class time. They are asked to bring a wrapped Christian book. The students sing songs, play games, have birthday cake, and get a balloon to take home. The books are later distributed to needy children.

Lenten Project: The children are given a plastic Bread Loaf bank from World Vision. They are encouraged to fill it with coins during Lent, perhaps by doing little jobs around the house. The stu-

dents return the loaves during a song/prayer service at their Palm Sunday class. (World Vision 1/800-444-2522)

Elementary Stewardship Opportunities

Pack lunches for the homeless during a religious education class. Different students sign up to bring bread, peanut butter, jelly, chips, fruit, and cookies. The children can include notes of encouragement in each lunch.

Collect personal care items and medicines (such as Tylenol, Benadryl, Neosporin, etc.) for the mission projects in Guatemala, Honduras, Belize, etc. The children can offer their gifts during a prayer service held during their Religious Education class.

Collect money in a special Lenten box, which can be brought to Mass on Easter Sunday. The money can be used to help fund missions in Mexico, etc.

Collect baby items such as diapers, bottles, sleepers, etc., for an agency which ministers to needy mothers and mothers who are experiencing crisis pregnancies. Can be done during Respect Life month.

Write thank you notes to the parish priests during Vocation Month.

Write welcome letters to the R.C.I.A. candidates.

Collect school supplies for students in mission schools.

Stewardship envelopes. Every week the children are given the opportunity to use their stewardship envelopes at Mass.

Middle School Stewardship Opportunities

The middle school program could include a service opportunity each month ultimately teaching the children to give without reward. Giving to others is a life skill, which we want them to take into their adult lives.

September: Chair a booth at the Church Festival.

October: Gifts for the Unborn - The children can bring mini baby shampoos, lotions, picture frames and booties to make up special packages which a crisis pregnancy agency can give the mothers they serve.

November: Food Hunt for a food bank - Divide the children into teams and parents drive them to different neighborhoods in the parish. The teams collect food door-to-door from 4-6 p.m. Upon return to the Parish, they display the food and tally points. (Each type of food is assigned a point value. Hard to get products get a higher point. For example tuna = 20 pts. Soup = 5 pts.) There are no prizes. Just the recognition as to which team collected the most points.

December: Santa's Workshop on a Saturday afternoon in December, for about 3 hours so parents can finish their shopping or just have a break. Young children come to the parish for an afternoon of crafts and fun sponsored by the Middle Schoolers. The older children help the younger children in card making, ornament making, tree garland creating, snacks, play dough creations,

gift making, a visit with Santa, and a holiday movie.

January: Sandwiches for the Homeless (as described in elementary section).

February: Make Valentine s cards during one of the religious education classes to be distributed to nursing homes.

March: Gift Bags for the Homeless. Collect mini items of shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, etc. Put the items in bags and add a note of encouragement.

April: Easter Egg Hunt for the younger children. The students bring a bag of candy to their religious education class. They fill hundreds of plastic eggs for the Parish Easter Egg Hunt. The church can purchase the eggs and recycle them from year to year. The middle school kids hide the eggs before the Easter Sunday Masses and then help little ones find eggs during the hunts which follow Mass.

May: Make rosaries for mission churches.

High School Stewardship Opportunities

Serve as lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, hospitality ministers, and altar servers at Mass every Sunday.

Volunteer in soup kitchens.

Volunteer at nursing home Olympics .

Volunteer for Easter Seals rally.

Participate in C.R.O.P. walk.

Volunteer with Habitat for Humanity.

Chair a booth at parish festival.

Serve as counselors at middle school retreats

Volunteer in church nursery.

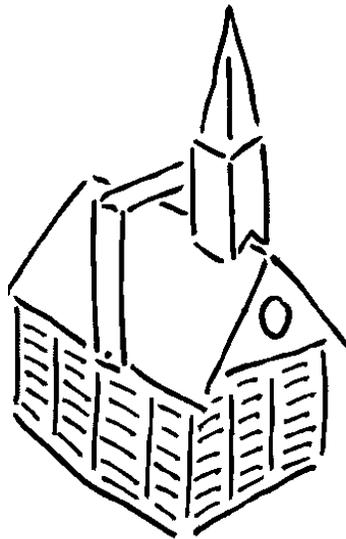
Help at the Catholic booth at State Fair.

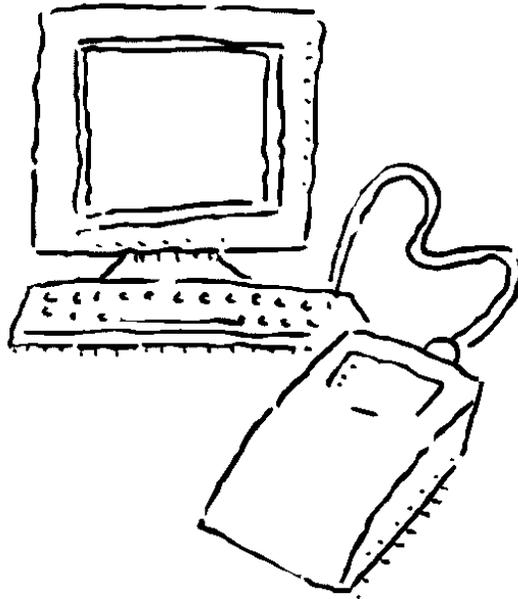
Presenting the GOD JAR at Mass

Fr. Pat: Todd, I would like to share something with you that I was taught. You see these two jars, one is marked Todd and the other marked God. These are for you to place in your bedroom at home.

Just as I have shared this concept with you I would like to share it with the rest of the youth of the parish. I ask all the youth of the parish to come up now and receive an envelope with two labels-one marked for your GOD JAR, and the other to write your name, for your jar. Ask your mom or dad for two containers. Each time you receive any type of money - for work you did, from gifts you received, please place 10 cents of every dollar in the God jar and 90 cents in your jar. Then each Sunday, take 1/2 of what's in your God jar, place it in the envelope, write on your envelope how you have shared your time and talent that week and then bring it to Mass. What happens if you don't have any money to put in the envelope? First, don't ask your parents. This gift to God should be from you, not your parents. Second, if you don't have money, that's okay, but please give your envelope. Every week you should give thanks to God by sharing your time and talent with others.

We invite all youth in the parish to come now and receive their labels.





Todd: Wow thanks. (The child should respond naturally throughout the rest of the presentation.)

Fr. Pat: Let me tell you what I would like you to do with them. Each time you get a monetary gift for your birthday, for Christmas, from your grandparents or aunts or uncles, or when you receive money from mowing a neighbor's lawn, delivering newspapers, baby-sitting-anytime you receive money, I would like you to put them in these jars. As an example, I am going to give you a gift of \$1.00-20 nickels.

I would like you to take 10 cents-2 nickels, and place them in the GOD JAR. That's for support of God's work-to help the poor, to support the parish ministries, to help the missions. In a few weeks every youth in the parish will receive special youth envelopes in the mail. When you receive them, I'd like you to place half of what's in the God jar into the envelope, write on the envelope how you have thanked God through your time and talent and place the envelope in the offertory basket. The other half is for the poor and charities of your choosing.

How much do you have left? Okay, take the 90 cents - the 18 nickels and place them in the jar marked Todd. That's for you. It's for things that you and your parents feel that you need to save up for - going to the movies, going skiing, saving for college.

So what do you think?

Resources

Stewardship for Children and Teens Resources

Stewardship: Disciples Respond A Practical Guide, (especially p. 16-18 sixteen responsibilities of a Stewardship Committee); International Catholic Stewardship Council; 202-289-1093
www.catholicstewardship.com

Children s Stewardship Manual, International Catholic Stewardship Council; 202-289-1093
www.catholicstewardship.com

Stewardship Programs for Children and Youth, Rita McCarthy Swartz; Sheed and Ward
1-800-333-7373

A Guide to Parish Stewardship, Diocese of Charleston, (843) 853-2130 ext. 7

How to Present A Ministry Fair, Rita McCarthy Swartz; Sheed and Ward 1-800-333-7373

Stewardship - A Parish Handbook, C. Justin Clements; Liguori Publications 1-800-325-9521

Sixty-Second Stewardship Sermons, Charles Cloughen, Jr., The Liturgical Press
1-800-858-5450

Sharing Treasure, Time & Talent A Parish Manual for Sacrificial Giving or Tithing,
Joseph M. Champlin, The Liturgical Press 1-800-858-5450

Sharing the Ministry, Jean Morris Trumbauer, Augsburg Fortress 215-951-6709

International Catholic Stewardship Council, 202-289-1093
www.catholicstewardship.org

The Office of Stewardship and Mission Advancement, 843-853-2130 ext. 7
www.catholic-dcc.org/stewardship

Giving Hearts and Hands, Debbie Pratt, Director of Stewardship St. Peters Catholic Church,
Columbia SC (803) 779-0036 - debbiep@visitstpeters.org

The ABCs of Stewardship for Children and Youth, Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Office of
Stewardship and Development, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, OK 73123, 405-721-5651

Children s Activity Pages, Diocese of Rockville Centre. Office of Parish Stewardship, 99 North
Village Avenue, Rockville Centre, NY 11571, 516-763-6795

Come and You Will See, Archdiocese of Denver, Pastoral Center, 200 Josephine Street, Denver,
CO 80206, 303-388-0517

Curriculum on Stewardship & Children s Stewardship, Education Committee, Archdiocese of
St. Louis, The Catholic Center, 4445 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108-2497, 314-533-1887, Fax
314-533-1889

Give Gratefully (video), Diocese of St Augustine, Office of Stewardship, P.O. Box 24000,
Jacksonville, FL 32241-4000, 904-262-3200

God s Love Grows and Grows: Christian Stewardship-Growing In God s Love, Archdiocese
of Cincinnati, Office for Financial Development, 100 East 8th Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202, 513-
421-3131.

Good Things are for Sharing: A Curriculum Guide in Stewardship for the Elementary
School Level and From The Heart: A Curriculum Guide in Stewardship for the Middle and
Senior High School Levels, Office of Stewardship and Development, Archdiocese of Louisville,
P.O. Box 1073, Louisville, KY 40201-1073, 502-585-3291

Lesson Plans for Religious Education Programs and Schools, Diocese of Covington,
Stewardship & Mission Services, P.O. Box 18548, Erlanger, KY 606-283-6258, Fax 606-283-6334

Let the Children Come to Me, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development, 1123 South Church
Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003, 704-370-3302, Fax 704-370-3378

Little Hands, Building Big, Archdiocese of Santa Fe, Office of Stewardship and Evangelization,
4000 St. Joseph s Place NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120, 505-831-8152

Stewardship Lesson Plans, Ed Laughlin, Diocese of Palm Beach, 999S North Military Trail,
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410. 516-115-9500, Fax 516-115-9556

Stewardship: Section 8 - Stewardship For Children and Youth, Diocese of Orange,
Chancellor s Office, 2811 Villa Real Drive, P.O. Box 14195, Orange, CA 92863-1595, 714-282-
3000, Fax 714-282-3029

T3 = Thanking God: Teaching the Gospel Value of Stewardship, Diocese of Sioux City, 1821
Jackson Street, P.O. Box 33 79, Sioux City, IA 51102-33 79, 712-255-7933

Thanking God, Archdiocese of New Orleans, Development Office, 1000 Howard Avenue, New
Orleans, IA 70113-1903, 504-596-3045, Fax 504-596-3068

Thanks and Giving, Archdiocese of Baltimore, Development Office, 320 Cathedral Street,
Baltimore, MD 21201, 888-202-5113.

Why Does the Church ask My Family for Money? (Coloring Book), Diocese of Owensboro,
Office of Stewardship, 600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY 41301-2130, 502-683-1545, Fax 502-
683-6883

Young Stewards in Formation, Diocese of Wichita, Office of Development, 424 N. Broadway,
W ichtita, KS 67202, 316-296-3000, Fax 316-269-3936

Youth Stewardship Program, Diocese of Toledo, Church Development, 1933 Spielbusch
Avenue, P.O. Box 985, Toledo, OH 43696-0985, 419-244-6711

Speakers on Children s Stewardship

Following is a sample list of speakers who have made presentations on children s stewardship.
This list is not exhaustive.

Elinor Ford, Religious Education Consultant Asheville, NC (in Diocese of Charlotte in North
Carolina)

The Reverend Thomas Gentile, Spiritual Advisor for Stewardship Education in the Archdiocese
of Louisville in Kentucky; Pastor, St. Helen Catholic Church, Louisville, Kentucky

Joseph L. Langenderfer, Executive Director for Development Archdiocese of New Orleans in
Louisiana Ed Laughlin (and family), Director of Stewardship Diocese of Palm Beach in Florida

Tom Lilly, Director of Stewardship and Development Diocese of Owensboro in Kentucky

Lois Locey, Pastoral Assistant for Administration and Parish Development St. Michael Parish, Olympia, Washington

Laurie Nieb, Manager of Stewardship and Pastoral Councils Archdiocese of Denver in Colorado

Joe O Bryan, Superintendent of Catholic Schools Diocese of Owensboro in Kentucky Patricia Pohl, Educator and Author Archdiocese of Louisville in Kentucky

Barbara Rohrman, Associate Director of Development Diocese of Charlotte in North Carolina

Rosemary Bisig Smith, Director of Stewardship and Development Archdiocese of Louisville in Kentucky

The Reverend James M. Sobus, Pastor St. Michael Parish, Wheeling, West Virginia

Publishers with Children's Stewardship Materials

Presentations at the annual ICSC Conference on Stewardship for children and youth have been audiotaped and many have been videotaped. Contact Hoke Communications for more information at 800-229-6700.

American Church: 365 McClurg Rd., Youngstown, OH 44512-6798, 800-228-6101, www.americanchurch.com

Offering envelopes for elementary and teens, bookmarks, activity books, stewardship videos based on the parables (videos for grades K-3)

Ark Envelope Company: 2179 Tomlynn Street, Richmond, VA 23230-3316, 800-371-1275, Fax 804-358-2745, www.arkenv.com

Offering Envelopes

Channing L. Bete Co., Inc.: 200 State Road, South Deerfield, MA 01373-0200, 800-628-7733, www.channing-bete.com

The Wise Steward Series, scriptographic coloring and activity booklets

Holy Childhood Association: 1720 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036, 202-775-8637, Fax 202-429-2987, www.holychildusa.org

Children of the Light videotape; Brochures

J.S. Paluch Envelope Division: 800-524-359, Parables for Children video series

Offering envelopes, coloring & activity books

Liguori Press: One Liguori Drive, Liguori, MO 63057-9999, 800-325-9521, Fax 800-325-9526, www.liguori.com

Offering envelopes for children

Liturgical Press: Saint John's Abbey, P.O. Box 7500, Collegeville, MN 56321-7500, 800-858-7500, Fax 800-445-5899, www.litpress.org

Offering envelopes for children; Teaching Our Youth to Share, brochure by Rev. Joseph Champlin

NCS Envelope: P.O. Box 269, Chester, WV 26034, 800-627-9900, www.envelopeservice.com

Offering envelopes

Our Sunday Visitor: 200 Noll Plaza, Huntington, IN 46750, 800-348-2440, www.csv.com
Offering envelopes for children & teens

Rainbow Publishers: P.O. Box 261129, San Diego, CA 92196-1129, 800-323-7337
52 Ways to Teach Stewardship; 52 Ways to Teach Children to Pray

Sheed & Ward: 30 Amberwood Parkway, Ashland, OH 44805 phone: 800-266-5564, fax: 419-281-6883, email: order@bookmaster.com or website: www.bookmaster.com/sheed/
Stewardship Programs for Children and Youth, by Rita McCarthy Swartz; The Stewardship Game

United States Catholic Conference: 1-800-235-8722, www.nccbuscc.org
Stewardship: A 3-D Way of Life: Not for Adults Only, video; Stewardship: A Disciples Response, U.S. Bishops Pastoral Letter on Stewardship

Youth Ministry Direct: 27782 El Lazo Road, Suite 120, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677, 800-981-9542.

Stewardship Tools for Teens, offering envelopes, Catholic Teen Stewardship Survival Guide, Leaders Guide; Catholic Teen Stewardship Survival Guide, a basic guide to help teens learn how to serve others

Children's Stewardship Story Books

Count Your Blessings, By Donna D. Cooner, Tommy Nelson Publishing, Children's Division, 404 BNA Drive, Suite 508, Nashville, TN 37217, www.tommynelson.com

Goodnight Blessings, by Karen Mezek, Leimert, Tommy Nelson Publishing, Children's Division, 404 BNA Drive, Suite 508, Nashville, TN 37217, www.tommynelson.com
The Giftwritten by Bishop Robert Momeau, illustrated by Marjorie Mau, Paulist Press, 997 MacArthur Blvd., Mahwah, NJ 07430, 800-218-1903, Fax 800-836-3161, www.paulistpress.com

The Giving Tree, by Shel Silverstein: Harper San Francisco, 1160 Battery Street, San Francisco, CA 94111-1213, 800-331-3761

God's Best Gift, Paulist Press, 997 MacArthur Blvd., Mahwah, NJ 07430, 800-218-1903, Fax 800-836-3161, www.paulistpress.com

The Kids Book of Prayers About All Sorts of Things, Chapter 1 Prayers of Thankfulness, Elizabeth & David Heller, Pauline Books & Media, 50 St. Paul's Avenue, Boston, MA 02130, 617-522-8911

My Allowance, by David Royle, Me & Mi Books, droylecandmi.com

Stu Bear: A Story About Stewardship For Young Children: Stewardship Education, Congregational Ministries Division, Presbyterian Church (USA), 100 Witherspoon St., Louisville, KY 40202, 800-524-2612, www.pcusa.org
(Coloring poster Stickers: Item #70370-95-208; Storybook: Item #70370-95-207)

Thank You God, Paulist Press, 997 MacArthur Boulevard, Mahwah, NJ 07430, 800-218-1903, Fax 800-836-3161, www.paulistpress.com

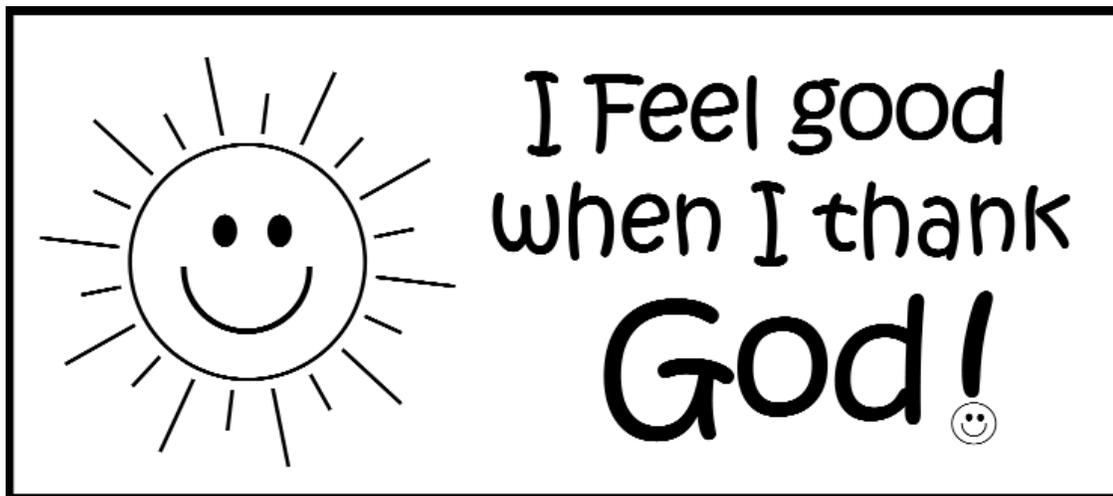
Sample Envelopes

<p>Place an inspiring Stewardship graphic here that is appropriate to the age level of the child or youth who will use this envelope</p>	<p><i>"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself."</i></p> <p>This is how I thanked God this week:</p> <p>Time: _____</p> <p>Talent: _____</p> <p>Treasure: _____</p> <p>Name: _____</p>
---	---

Smooth side of envelope

<p>ST. ALEXANDER PARISH 1055 Boundary Street SE, Somewhere, USA 00000</p>	
<p><u>Sacrificial Giving</u> <i>Fostering Stewardship as a way of life</i></p>	<p>GIVING SUGGESTIONS:</p> <p>Time & Talent: Describe how you have shared your gifts of time & talent this past week. Treasure: Share 10% of any money you may have received in the past week: half to your parish in this Sunday envelope; half to the poor and other charities.</p>

Flap side of envelope



Smooth side of envelope

Name _____

My good deed was _____

This week, I m giving to God

Flap side of envelope

Envelopes above available from Our Sunday Visitor. Call 1-800-348-2886.



GIVING HEARTS AND HANDS

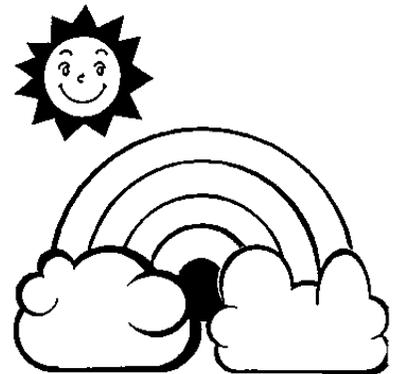
An Educational Stewardship Program for the Children of St. Peter's

Fall 2001

For grades 4-6

G O D ' S L O V E

Did you know that God's perfect love is with us everyday? We see it all around us. Nature's creatures scurry through the woods as they feed and take care of their young. Beautiful flowers open their petals to drink the rainwater and to soak in God's warm sun. A variety of crops grow in the farmers' fields that will become food and nourishment on our kitchen tables.



God's perfect love is with us everyday. We feel its presence everyday. As we head to school, our parents hug us with all their might. Our teachers smile as we enter the classroom. Our friends laugh and smile when we play and spend time together.

During each day, take time to thank God for all these wondrous gifts. Let's return God our love and appreciation by taking care of the gifts and using them the best way we can.

DID YOU KNOW??

Every week St. Peter's helps many people throughout the world. How is this done? It is done by the generosity of all our parish families who answer God's call to give some of their money to help those in need. When the money is collected on the weekends, a portion of it is sent to help many people.

Have you heard of the Columbia Free Medical Clinic? The clinic is here in Columbia and provides free medical care to people who cannot afford to visit a doctor. The doctors are able to treat individuals who have colds, the flu, or any other common illness. Without the clinic, many people would remain sick. Be thankful for the good health care you receive from your doctor. God is pleased that we are giving a portion of our money to help people receive healthcare. There are other ways St. Peter's helps those in need. You will read about them in the future so stay tuned!

OUR OWN STEWARD - ST. PETER

St. Peter the Apostle lived in the small town of Galilee, and earned his living as a fisherman. As a fisherman, Peter was by far, the most respected in the area. He understood that catching fish was just one part of his job. In order to have a good catch, Peter knew he had the responsibility of keeping his fishing gear in good shape and making sure his boat was maintained. Without taking care of these responsibilities, Peter knew his fishing would not be as good as it could be.

Jesus knew Peter was thankful for his home and for his fishing capabilities. So, when Jesus asked Peter to follow Him, He knew Peter would be good at any job asked of him. Through the gifts God gave him, Peter became the leader of the Apostles and when asked by Jesus, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter replied, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." (Mt. 15:15-17) Peter's gifts of faithfulness and strength were reaffirmed when Jesus gave Peter the responsibility of leading the church and keeping the keys to the Kingdom.

Everyone's gifts are different. Everyone gifts are important. We can be sure that God doesn't ask us to accomplish anything without giving us the necessary gifts. Ask yourself these questions...

Are you responsible?

Is God asking you to do something for Him?

Are you listening so you can hear God?

HOW'S YOUR MEMORY?

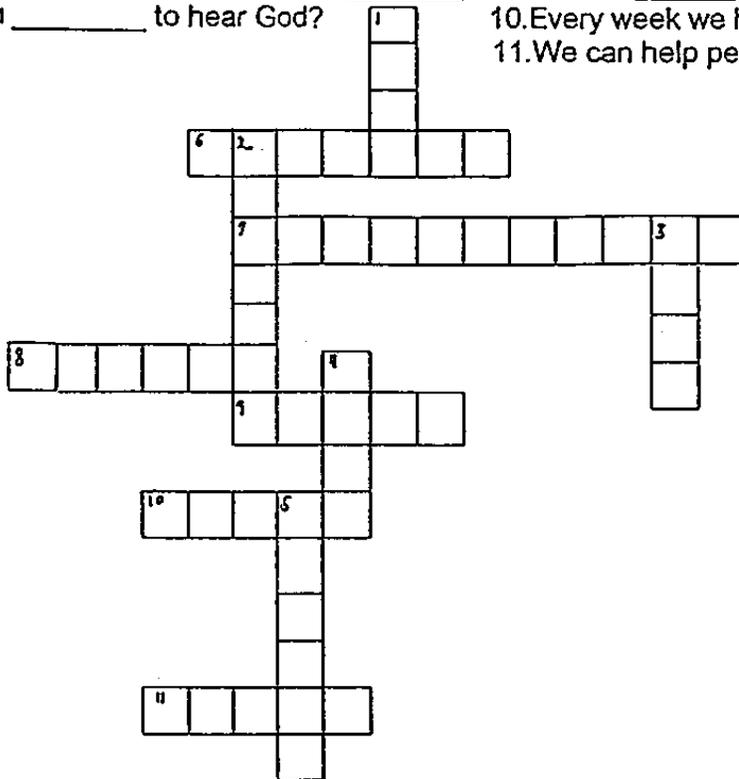
All the answers to the puzzle can be found in this newsletter. Good luck!

DOWN

1. Use your gifts the _____ way you can.
2. God's love is _____.
3. Thank God and return your _____ to Him.
4. Your gift of money helps those in _____.
5. Do you _____ to hear God?

ACROSS

6. St. Peter The _____.
7. Peter was _____.
8. People get help at the Columbia Free Medical _____.
9. Doctors _____ people with colds at the clinic.
10. Every week we help people throughout the _____.
11. We can help people by giving some of our _____.





GIVING HEARTS AND HANDS

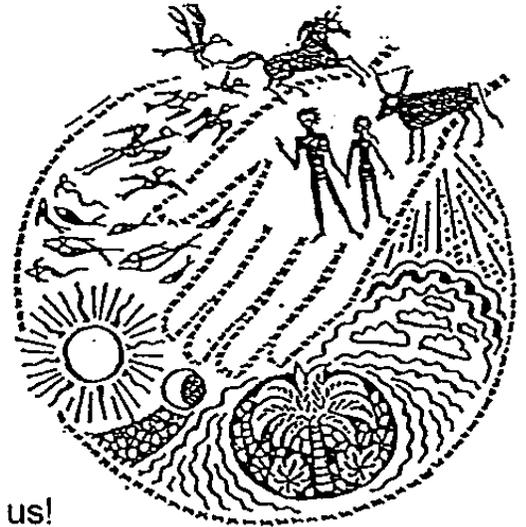
An Educational Stewardship Program for the Children of St. Peter's

Fall 2001

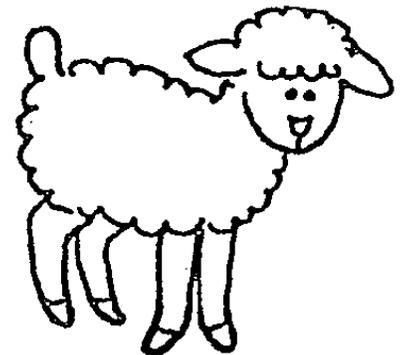
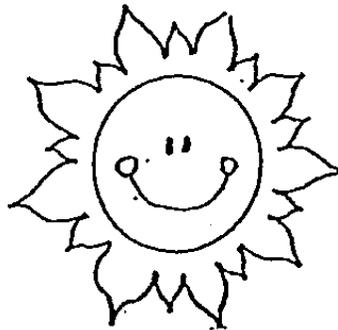
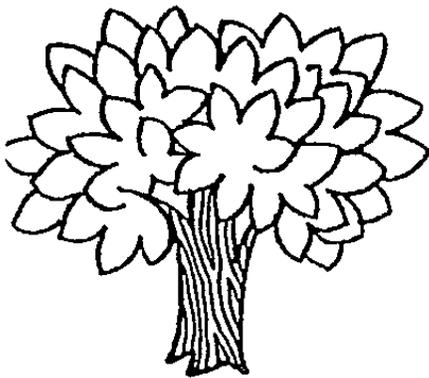
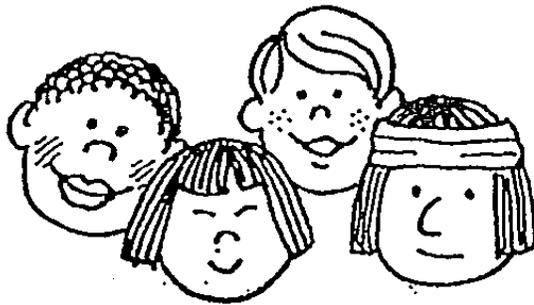
For K-3rd Grade

GOD'S GIFTS

In the beginning God created the earth. In the sky, God made the sun to keep us warm. Under the sun, God placed water for us to drink. God's animals also drank the water. God wanted everything beautiful. That is why God grew flowers out of the earth. Out of love, God wanted to share all this beauty....**THAT IS WHY GOD MADE YOU!**



Have fun coloring all the beautiful things God made for us!





STEVIE'S AND SALLIE'S CORNER

Stevie and Sallie are good stewards at St. Peter's. Below are activities they did this week. Draw a line from the hands to the activities they did with their helping hands. Then draw a line from the heart to the activities they did with their loving hearts.



Helped mom pack a picnic lunch



Kissed mom and dad good-bye



Raked leaves with dad



Took food to church for the poor



Prayed for a friend in the hospital

Thank you God!



THANKS FOR GOD'S BLESSINGS

Think about everything you have. Your list probably includes your parents, grandparents, friends, your home, and the good food you like to eat! God has blessed you with all of these. God loves you. Give thanks to God! How can You thank God? There are many ways to thank God. You can give thanks when praying. Singing a pretty hymn is pleasing to God. You can thank God at Mass during a special time. Use your GIVING HEARTS AND HANDS envelope to thank God and to tell God how you helped and loved others. This makes God very happy!

GIVING HEARTS AND HANDS

This week I was a good steward
I am happy to return these
gifts to God.

*** If you would like to share the story
of a special gift you are returning to
God, you may write it on the back.

Name: _____

Age: _____ Birthday: _____

Children's Stewardship Song

Kimberly Kay Kocmoud

REFRAIN:



Eve-ry-thing I have is a gift from God, a gift from God, is a gift from God.



Eve-ry-thing I have is a gift from God, my Time, my Tal-ents and my Treas-ures.

VERSES:



1. Time is how I spend my days. Do I wor-ry or do I praise?
2. Tal-ents are the spe-cial things that God has giv-en for me to do.
3. Treas-ures are the gifts from God like food and mon-ey and cloth-ing, too.



1. Do I give some time to God for all the time that He has giv-en me?
2. Can I draw or can I write, sing a song ___ or ___ smile so bright?
3. If I give I soon will see God will al-ways give me all I need.

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St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 401 South Parker, Bryan, TX 77803. (409) 823-8145.

Caring AND Sharing

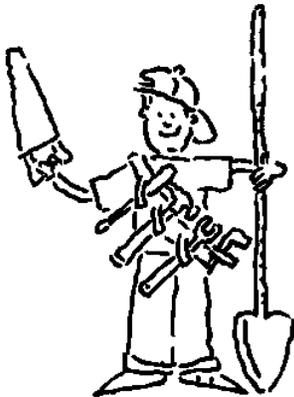


AND
Returning God's Gifts

Caring AND Sharing



AND
Returning God's Gifts



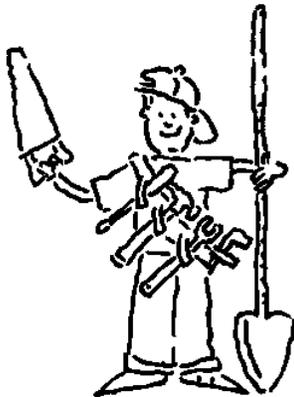
TIME



TALENT



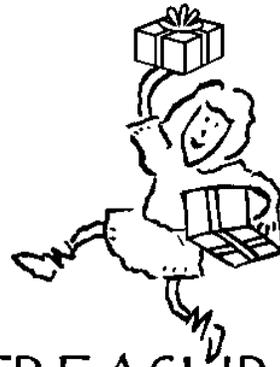
TREASURE



TIME



TALENT



TREASURE

Office of Stewardship & Mission Advancement
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON

Most Reverend Robert J. Baker
Bishop of Charleston

Michael J. Gocsik
Secretary of Stewardship and Mission Advancement

James T. Myers, Ph.D.
Director of Stewardship

P.O. Box 300
Charleston, SC 29402
(843) 853-2130, ext. 7
www.catholic-dc.org/stewardship