

Organization Guidelines for the Parish Stewardship Council of Holy Spirit Catholic Church

I. Parish Mission

"To be the light to our world by: Praying and celebrating as a Eucharistic Community, Serving the less fortunate with unconditional love & generosity"

II. Parish Vision

"To be welcoming, multi-cultural and multi-generational Roman Catholic Faith Community, rooted in Scripture and Tradition, nourished by the Sacraments and empowered by the Holy Spirit to be the light to our world by: Praying and celebrating as a Eucharistic Community, Instructing children and adults in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Serving the less fortunate with unconditional love & generosity and protecting human life in all its stages."

III. Parish Responsibilities/Areas of Ministry

All parishes are responsible for five general areas of ministry:

1. **Welcome** (Hospitality and the building of community)
2. **Witness** (Religious education and evangelization)
3. **Worship** (Liturgy)
4. **Walking in the Spirit** (Spirituality)
5. **Work of Christ** (Christian service and outreach, especially to those in need).

IV. Definition of Stewardship

Biblical Definition: "For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *let us exercise them.*" Roman 12: 4-6.

Possession of a gift is not an index to quality of faith. Rather, the gift is a challenge to faithful use. (NAB)

And, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" Matthew 6:21.

US Bishops' Definition:

“As Christian stewards we are called to receive God’s gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others and return them with increase to the Lord”

V. Purpose of Stewardship

Giving and Stewardship in an Effective Church, by Kennon Callahan

"The Purpose of Stewardship is Giving, not fundraising." (pg. 111)

Therefore, a successful stewardship grows, develops advances and builds on the remarkable gifts with which God has blessed us. (pg. 117)

VI. Mission of the Holy Spirit's Stewardship Council

The Parish Stewardship Council is one of three major advisory Parish Councils to the Pastor; the other two being the Pastoral Council and the Finance Council.

The Stewardship Council will support the Pastor uniting the Parish community for the common goal of freely giving of our time, talent and treasure to support our parish and community. The Council will work to educate the Parish in stewardship of treasure and challenge all parishioners to become involved in the various ministries of the parish.

The Council will assist the parish by working to increase financial resources through the establishment of programs and coordinated efforts to raise operating income and capital and thus build a substantial level of financial solvency for the parish. The Council will work as a team to help organize community building events and various fund-raising ventures (when needed).

Simplified: "To Build Holy Spirit Parish into Loving Community that Invites all to the Compassionate Love of Jesus of which People Yearn to Belong"

VII. Responsibilities of Holy Spirit Stewardship Council

1. To advise and promote the stewardship efforts of time, talent and treasures through the year.

2. To evaluate the effectiveness of current stewardship efforts.

A. Growing Stewardship by education:

1. Communications:

Bulletins, Grace in Action,
Newsletter,
Welcome Packet,
Financial Statement,
Website

2. Homilies

B. Developing Stewardship Possibilities:

1. Spontaneous Giving

2. Major community worship

3. Special planned giving

4. Short term major projects

5. Annual giving

6. Enduring giving

C. Advancing the Motivation of Stewardship:

1. Appreciation

2. Meeting the needs of the grassroots (compassion and community)

D. Building a parish that reflects its mission

“To be the light to our world by: Praying and celebrating as a Eucharistic Community, Serving the Brothers and Sisters with unconditional love & generosity”

3. Establish new stewardship efforts/programs to increase financial solvency and community building.

4. Approve the Annual Stewardship Action Plan