HOW TO WRITE
A STEWARDSHIP LAY WITNESS TALK

ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF PRESENTING THE STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE IS THROUGH THE STEWARDSHIP LAY WITNESS TALK. THIS TALK CAN BE BEFORE MASS, AFTER THE CLOSING PRAYER OF MASS, OR EVEN AFTER THE HOMILY.

PARISHIONERS WHO ARE ALREADY PRACTICING STEWARDSHIP IN THEIR OWN LIVES, INTEGRATING THE SPIRIT OF STEWARDSHIP INTO THEIR HOME LIVES ARE THE IDEAL CANDIDATES TO ASK. IT MAY BE GIVEN BY AN INDIVIDUAL, OR A COUPLE. IN SOME CASES, EVEN CHILDREN MAY PARTICIPATE.

SAMPLE OUTLINE FOR COMPOSING LAY WITNESS TALK

1. INTRODUCE YOURSELF

2. DEFINE STEWARDSHIP AND INTRODUCE THIS YEAR’S THEME:

STEWARDSHIP IS:

THE GRATEFUL RESPONSE OF A CHRISTIAN DISCIPLE,

WHO RECOGNIZES AND RECEIVES GOD’S GIFTS,

AND WHO SHARES THESE GIFTS IN LOVE OF GOD AND NEIGHBOR.

3. DISCUSS HOW YOU BEGAN PRACTICING STEWARDSHIP IN YOUR LIFE –

WHEN DID STEWARDSHIP BECOME MORE THAN A DONATION OF MONEY OR VOLUNTEERING OF SOME TIME? DON’T TELL THEM WHAT YOU DO, TELL THEM WHO YOU ARE BECOMING!

YOUR ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS CAN BE A PART OF YOUR TESTIMONY:

• WHAT ARE YOU GRATEFUL FOR?

• WHAT GIFTS DO YOU RECOGNIZE YOU HAVE? OR WHAT GIFTS DO YOU RECOGNIZE THE PARISH HAS? PATIENCE, PERSEVERANCE, A CATHOLIC SCHOOL, STRONG HOSPITALITY, ETC.

• HOW HAVE YOU “RECEIVED” THESE GIFTS? OBVIOUSLY YOU DID NOT BURY THESE TALENTS/GIFTS, SO HOW DID YOU ACCEPT THEM? WITH GRATITUDE? BEGRUDGINGLY AT FIRST?
• In what way do you share your gifts in love of God and neighbor?

NOTE: If your stewardship is cleaning the church, what gift did you recognize and receive and are sharing? Gift of time? Gift of hospitality? Do you like a clean church for your friends? Gift of organizing people to clean the church? What gift? Ultimately stewardship is about the salvation of souls and our relationship with Jesus Christ! How does cleaning the church fulfill this mission?

4. Answer how stewardship has changed your life at home or work:
• What difference has being grateful in all areas of your life made?
• What difference has recognizing and receiving a particular gift and then finding a way to share it in love of God and neighbor at work or home made?

5. Remind your fellow parishioners to see stewardship as four points:
(1) Gratitude!
(2) Recognizing and (3) Receiving God’s gifts!
(4) Sharing these gifts!
How do you share your gifts?
Through these 3 points of stewardship:
Prayer, Participation, and Generosity

6. Tell the parishioners about this year’s renewal. Where to pick up their packets, when and how to return them.

7. Thank them for their generous stewardship of time, talent, and treasure.

The outline:

1. Introduce yourself
2. Define stewardship and introduce this year’s theme
3. Discuss how you began practicing stewardship
4. How has stewardship made a difference in your life?
5. Remind them about the four points of stewardship
6. Instruct them about this year’s renewal (if applicable)
7. Thank them!