

# Lay Witness Preparation

## Selecting the Lay Witnesses

Careful consideration should be given to selecting the lay witnesses.

Testimony can be given by individuals, couples, and, in some cases, even children. The lay witnesses should be people who are practicing Christian stewardship in their own family lives. ***They should be known, respected, and knowledgeable.*** Keep the following points in mind when selecting lay witnesses:

- ♦ Are they a person of prayer?
- ♦ Are they a person who shares his/ her talents with the parish?
- ♦ Are they a person who supports the Church financially?
- ♦ Can they articulate about his/her faith and speak to a crowd?

## Sample Outline for Composing a Lay Witness Talk

### 1. Introduce yourself

While many of your fellow parishioners will know you, some may not. Give a description of your family, the number of years in the parish, etc.

### 2. Properly define Christian stewardship

Christian stewardship is a response we make in gratitude to God for what He has given to us. It is a deliberate, conscious decision to commit overall to the fundamentals of Christian stewardship: prayer, family life, sharing skills and talents, and giving financially to your parish.

### 3. Discuss how you began practicing Christian stewardship

When did you first become aware of the concept? Did you have reservations? Be honest about your first reactions. People relate to any feelings of discomfort. How did your family react to the idea? Was the initial “plunge” difficult? How did you go about it?

### 4. Share when you began to experience the benefits

Speak of the effect that Christian stewardship has had on your faith life. Use anecdotes from your own family life if possible. How do you and your family practice stewardship?

### 5. Urge your fellow parishioners to get involved

Invite the congregation to join you and your family in making your parish a stewardship parish. Ask them to look at all that God has given to them and discern how they can make a generous response to His many gifts.