

Lay Witness Preparation

2024 Bishop's Annual Stewardship Appeal

Sample Outline

❖ 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.

❖ 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.

❖ 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 reaction. 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?

❖ 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?

❖ 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.

Feel free to talk about how you have witnessed the Church's response to the great need, especially in the past year.