

Teaching Stewardship to our Children and Youth {fifth in series}

This is a call to young adults everywhere to renew the face of the earth. This is a call to listen to the voice of the Spirit speaking of gratitude and responsibility. This is an invitation to Catholic stewardship.



Teaching our children and youth to be stewards of the gifts received from God presents one of our greatest challenges and an equally great reward. If we, as parents and grandparents, practice stewardship, we are not only fulfilling the words of the gospel and giving meaning to our lives, but **we are living examples of Christ to our children and grandchildren.** Our children and youth are also called by Jesus to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, to practice hospitality, to clothe the naked, to care for the sick, and to be a blessing to others.



There is another obvious way to encourage children and youth to be good stewards. Because children tend to do what you do, parents and grandparents should be an example of what a good steward is.

“When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and I could say, I used everything you gave me.”



Suggestions for implementing children’s stewardship:

- ◆ **SUPPORT** - It is vital for us to enlist the support of the Pastor, the Faith Formation Director, the Pastoral Staff, and the Pastoral Council.
- ◆ **EDUCATION** - We will include mini-sessions in our faith formation classes. Display some of the children’s activities (i.e. posters, banners, essays, etc.) in church.
- ◆ **CHILDREN’S TIME AND TALENT LIST** - We will compile a list of children’s time and talent opportunities that are available in our parishes. We ask the adult ministries to welcome participation on the part of children. (i.e. usher, server, choir member, greeter, helping in buildings and grounds, etc.)



- ◆ **COMMUNICATION** - Introduce each grade during Masses so parishioners can encourage what the children are doing. Provide fun materials that could be sent home. Offer exciting activities our parishes can do together.
- ◆ **LAY WITNESS** - Ask a young person who is involved in ministry in each of our parishes (i.e. server, children’s lector, children’s usher, choir, etc.) to share with the other children and adults what stewardship means to them.

***STEWARDSHIP IS NOT A PROGRAM,
RATHER IT IS AN ATTITUDE,
A WAY OF LIFE ...***

If you would like to share your suggestions, thoughts, and ideas contact one of the **HFB Stewardship Committee members:**
Charlie Berns, Jr., Lily Data, Rita Heim, Mary O’Neill, Bruce Palmborg or Karen Weber

