



One Parish's Stewardship Journey *Here's What Happened at Our Lady of the Assumption*

The Stewardship journey at Our Lady of the Assumption has grown and changed over the thirteen years they have been promoting it as a way of life. It has weathered the transition of four different pastors—each with his own vision of parish stewardship. Throughout those thirteen years, several consistent ingredients have emerged. The first is a ***Stewardship Committee***. An active committee given the responsibility of promoting stewardship serves as an integral link between the time and talent volunteer ministries and the rest of the parish. That committee is currently a sub-committee of the Pastoral Council. A second ingredient for stewardship success is a commitment to ***on-going stewardship awareness***, through bulletin notes, prayers of the faithful, stewardship homilies, and on-going invitations to share in the ministry of the parish. The final crucial ingredient is the ***two-weekend stewardship effort held annually***. That effort has always involved the witness of parishioners who speak about their involvement in stewardship and the joy it brought to their lives. The results of promoting stewardship are difficult to quantify, but here is what happened at Our Lady of the Assumption.

Symptoms of Spiritual Change Over a Thirteen Year Period

- Weekday Mass attendance increased approximately 200%
- Two parish Bible Study groups were formed.
- Prior to the start of stewardship, the parish did not have a prayer group. They now have two!
- A Family Choir was formed for the 8:30am Mass.
- A children's choir was formed.
- Vietnamese and African American Choirs were formed.
- Children's Liturgy of the Word for both preschoolers and K-3rd graders was instituted.
- When invited to participate in community outreach programs, over 60 parishioners committed to a 6-week seminar, "Putting Faith Into Action," and are now actively involved in ministry to the hungry, elderly, and immigrants. ESL classes are offered twice a week as part of outreach to immigrants.
- Over 70 parishioners have completed a group prayer experience of the "Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius".
- The Parish has held 2 "Life in the Spirit" Seminars.
- Over 75 parishioners participated in "Bringing Christ to Our Everyday Life" -an Evangelization Workshop.
- The parish began monthly First Friday Eucharistic Adoration.

Our Lady of the Assumption Growth

	<u>1990</u>	<u>1995</u>
Number of Households	721	851
Total Income	\$139,400	\$238,000
Total Volunteers	65	400

It should be noted that the parish's regular building and grounds maintenance is entirely done by volunteers. Parishioners donate all the paper products, cleaning, and coffee supplies.