

Stewardship of Treasure **Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte**

What is stewardship?

- Teaching the full stewardship message—balance of time, talent and treasure
- Recognizing that we use our God-given talents to earn every paycheck
- Stewardship requires that we give back a portion of what we have received
- Stewardship—not fundraising

Stewardship—a way of living out one of the commandments (precepts) of the Church.

1. Confession at least once a year
2. Communion at least once a year, at Easter
3. Mass attendance on Sundays and Holy Days
4. Marriage laws of the church obeyed
5. Fasting and abstinence days observed
6. Financially contribute to the support of the church

- How do I contribute to the support of the Church?
- How do I preach and teach the living of that commandment?
- Pastors and preachers tend to spend a great deal of time focusing on the other Commandments of the Church—why not this one?

Stewardship of Treasure and Scripture—preaching the Gospel

- Old Testament – a tradition of tithing
- New Testament – parables of Jesus

Stewardship and Development in Catholic Dioceses and Parishes (An appendix to the Bishops' Pastoral Letter, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*)

1. Personal Witness
2. Commitment of Leadership
3. Hospitality, Evangelization and Outreach
4. Communication and Education
5. Recruiting, Training and Recognizing Gifts of Time and Talent
6. Stewardship of Treasure
7. Accountability

Obstacles / Criticisms / Misconceptions

- People are more apt to discuss the intimate details of their lives before they will discuss the amount of money they make or give.
- The misconception that the Church is always asking for money and people just don't have it to give
- Keeping criticisms in perspective
- The secular world and money
- Satan/sin
- Spiritual Blindness... We do not see God as the source of all that is good.
- Lack of trust in God
- Dominant secular culture contradicts religious convictions.
- Secular focus on self and pleasure
- Consumerism (Overall culture of "buying" takes you over.)
- Materialism (Love of things)
- "Mine!" "I earned it!"
- Society demands instant gratification...even parish not willing to wait for conversion to stewardship. Conversion is an on-going life-long process.