

## Stewardship at Assumption

Stewardship is a true disciple's response, born out of gratitude, in thanksgiving for the blessings one has received. It is a way of living, gratefully aware of all that God has done for us. In return for God's overflowing love and care for us, we give back to God a predetermined share of our time, talent and treasure. We do this *first*, trusting that God will truly provide for our needs as God has promised us in scripture. *"God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 4:19).

- We approach both Stewardship and Evangelization as a TEAM.
- Time, Talent and Treasure are all equally important.
- We have trained our community to realize that Stewardship and Evangelization is a life style, part of our culture with an annual renewal and commitment
- Evangelization is not a separate ministry within our Parish. It is proclaiming the Good News of Jesus in our day to day lives whether at home, at work or in community by serving His people with love and dignity!
- We used to do "treasure" in September, then "time and talent" in the Spring, ...beginning this year we will do all three in Lent/Spring timeline.
- Try to make our parish a welcoming and hospitable "user friendly" community.
  - Welcome to the parish video (samples available)
  - On-line registration followed up by personal contact
  - "Funds follow friends" principle
- We encourage people to make a **sacrificial gift** from their substance, not from their leftovers or from what "they can afford."
- We are not reluctant to **ask for a generous contribution**
- Be gentle but do not apologize for asking (...it's for the glory of God and the well being of the community). *People give to people...who ask.*
- Don't be reluctant to speak of your good news – **Marketing**
  - We use video screens...QR codes...Our website
  - FACT TV and Penfield Local TV – Nancy Hessler Video
  - YouTube video invitation to Holy Week and Easter.
  - The best Marketing is the voice of our people – which is Evangelization!
- Remember outreach to the poor and marginalized (The Social Ministry) is a **constitutive dimension of the Gospel** (i.e. There is no Gospel without it!)
- All that said, we have used an outside vendor (like Cunneen) to help in this effort...and have done it ourselves "in house."
- We find that we need to create the **habit** of Stewardship renewal.
- We need to be consistent in our annual ask.
- We need to use Stewardship language in our approach to all our ministry.
- We try to empower people to be good Stewards not just volunteers.
- We use an EFT (Electronic Fund Transfer) system of receiving people's gifts. Presently we have 185 households using EFT, representing 26% of collections.
- It can be done...and we have also learned to "not take it personally when someone says **No**"

**Stewardship is a blessing for our Parish and for our parishioners.**

***Try it you'll like it!***

**[www.AssumptionFairport.org](http://www.AssumptionFairport.org)**