

# Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Stewardship Policy

November 19, 2007

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, with the leadership of the Parish Council and pastoral staff is committed to “Stewardship: A Way of Life.” **Stewardship is an attitude of mind and heart and making God a priority in one’s life.**

To be a good steward requires four basic elements:

- **gratitude** to God;
- **responsibility and accountability** for our use of God’s gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure;
- sharing with others out of **justice and love**;
- and giving back to God a **proportionate** share of the gifts we have received.

Regarding Stewardship of Time and Talent, parishioners are invited to offer their Time and Talent in all aspects of parish life and its missions (refer to the “Time and Talent Opportunities for Service” in the Parish Directory). Regarding stewardship of Treasure, parishioners are invited to grow in their attitude and practice of prayerfully returning to God in thanksgiving a sacrificial and planned portion of their total income through their Sunday envelopes. (Biblical guideline of 10%: 5% to Lourdes and 5% to other diocesan and charitable causes.)

A parish community that really practices stewardship can meet its own needs and also share with others when its people believe in gratitude, generous sharing and accountability. However, an occasional fundraising effort can be a very fulfilling and joyful experience and may be approved provided it conforms to the Stewardship Guidelines and this Policy.

Regarding activities that raise funds, the following criteria apply:

- the activity is to embrace the theory and practice of stewardship;
- participation is to be voluntary;
- the activity is to involve active participation of parish members;
- the activity is to promote community building, spirit, education, sharing, service, and/ or fun as well as raising funds;
- 10% of all net proceeds are to be shared with another charity outside of the parish except when 100% of the net proceeds are specifically for an approved outside charity.
- This activity is to be approved with the following Approval Process.

The Approval Process for all new, significantly changed or altered, or eliminated ministries, charitable events, and parish fundraising activities, is as follows:

1. The initiating party presents their proposal to the Stewardship Committee for approval.

2. The Stewardship Committee then formally sends their recommendations to Parish Council and the Pastor for their approval.
3. The Parish Council then conveys their response to the Stewardship Committee which in turn notifies the initiator of the decision of both committees.

Please note: The initiator must allow a minimum of one month prior to the next scheduled Stewardship Committee meeting for notification, as well as one month for subsequent Parish Council and Pastor approval. Should a situation requiring immediate approval arise, the Stewardship Chair will forward all information to the Parish Council Chair and Pastor for review. All events and activities will be reviewed at the discretion of the Stewardship Committee to ensure they are conforming to the policy outlined above.

In order to support the importance and value of Stewardship among parishioners, all parish organizations and committees are required to follow this policy.