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## DO'S AND DON'TS FOR STEWARDSHIP SUCCESS

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### ***DO'S***

- 1) Do see stewardship as a way of life.
- 2) Do model stewardship in all the parish does—every program, every ministry, every event and activity for every age group.
- 3) Do adopt and adapt a successful program for teaching stewardship; make a commitment to educate every member of the parish.
- 4) Do realize that grasping the concept of stewardship as a way of life is a journey that will not be complete in anyone's lifetime. Remember that you will always be getting new parishioners and that old-timers need to be spiritually refreshed regularly, too.
- 5) Do get outside help if needed. Dynamic speakers make for enthusiastic stewards, and enthusiastic stewards serve as good role models who attract others.
- 6) Do promote the pastor as the spiritual leader, teacher, and chief cheerleader for stewardship.
- 7) Do point out that God expects a portion of the first fruits of the harvest, not what was left over at the end.
- 8) Do point out all the ways that members of the parish are good stewards. Publicly recognize their talents and gifts and thank them publicly for sharing them, and encourage them to take yet another step.
- 9) Do point out what gifts there are in the parish and that there are opportunities to share those gifts.
- 10) Do invite people to list whom they owe for all that they are and all that they have. Ask them if God is on the list.

### ***DON'TS***

- 1) Don't think of stewardship as a one-Sunday-a-year homily or even a one-, two-, or three year campaign.
- 2) Don't make stewardship only about money.
- 3) Don't leave stewardship solely to the pastor. Educate and form the leaders of every parish ministry and group so they can model a stewardship way of life.
- 4) Don't judge how and what people give. When stewardship is a way of life, there is no judgment: Stewardship invites people to pray, to work as a child of God, and to offer to God a portion of the fruits of our labor in gratitude for all the ways God has blessed them.
- 5) Don't assume your parishioners are not good stewards because they aren't donating at a certain level or aren't involved in a parish ministry. Realize that they may be choosing to support a needy family member, for example, or that they may be passionately involved in another cause or organization. They may be giving of themselves—their time, talent, treasure—to other activities that benefit the community.
- 6) Don't point out what the parish needs when inviting others to share their talents.
- 7) Don't compare—and encourage other not to compare—how much you and they give in time, talent, or treasure with what others do and give.

*Adapted from the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis Stewardship Manual.*