



TOTAL
STEWARDSHIP

A FUTURE FULL of HOPE

“I know the plans I have for you, says the
Lord, plans for your welfare and not for
harm, to give you a future with hope.”

JEREMIAH 29:11



CATHOLIC
FOUNDATION
OF SOUTH LOUISIANA

TOOLBOX SUPPLEMENT

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TOOLBOX SUPPLEMENT

Introductory Comments and Suggestions

Imagine a toolbox with empty trays and drawers. Without the proper tools, even the most well-conceived project is a nonstarter. Every team leader wants to provide staff and volunteers useful resources and to follow them with proven ways to implement those ideas wisely and well. In this important section of your annual Total Stewardship curriculum, you'll find dozens of programming tools—many we've gathered from regional and national ministry organizations, plus those you and your neighbors have used in area Catholic parishes.

Whether yours is an urban church or a rural parish, an established work of God with centuries of historic growth, or a parish that's still experiencing growing pains, this Toolbox Supplement will help you better address ministry needs in instructive and practical ways. The basic curriculum includes modules that focus on Prayer, Ministry and Finance, and these tools provide additional ways to personalize your approach with your parishioners in your community.

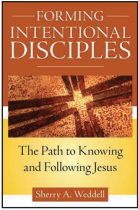
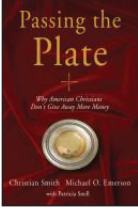
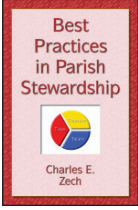
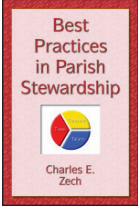
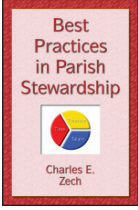


Everyone celebrates anniversaries. They offer a time of reflection, looking back at where God has taken us, but also a time for looking ahead—to see where God intends to direct our paths. As you celebrate this thirtieth anniversary edition of the Total Stewardship Program, we pray you look forward to A Future Full of Hope, and—to fashion seasons of stewardship emphasis in your parish, we trust these additional resources are exactly what you're looking for. In fact, we hope you find more than you need.

A Toolbox of Stewardship Ideas

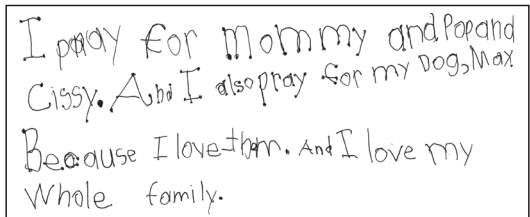
- 1 Clear the path. Remove obstacles and hurdles that unintentionally frustrate parishioners and their ability to give and give regularly. The following ideas may help.
- 2 For a good many parishioners, regular use of a checkbook is a dated concept. Offer them a way to support your parish electronically. Our Sunday Visitor (OSV) has created a helpful instructional PDF entitled “Why Churches Should Implement Electronic Giving,” and it will answer your questions related to online giving in the local parish:
https://www.osvoffertory.com/Portals/0/Images/Pages/Electronic%20Services/1105_0029.pdf
- 3 Those who don’t commonly use a checkbook may also carry little cash, choosing to use a debit card instead. Is there a way for them to make planned or unplanned contributions on site? St. Anthony’s in Boston was the first to install a giving kiosk, but a host of Catholic parishes offer similar options now. Some simply use an iPad, a credit cube and a smartphone service like the popular option developed by Square. Visit www.squareup.com for more details or to acquire a free Square Reader.
- 4 Provide parishioners the opportunity to contribute through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT, also Automatic Bank Draft, ABD). Millions of parishioners pay their bills using EFT already. Make giving to your Catholic parish just as easy. Create a form (see the Appendix for a sample), and invite members to complete a copy. Stress the value of regular weekly or monthly contributions, and their collective benefit to the parish budget committee and their plans each year.
- 5 Create a QR Code (Quick Response Code, also known as a matrix or two-dimensional barcode) that directs parishioners to your website, an online giving option, seasonal messages, news of special events, and annual stewardship campaigns. When you add a QR Code to a Sunday bulletin, pew brochure, poster or commitment card, parishioners are able to use their smartphones to access information of interest at any time.

- 6 Read and study 2 Corinthians 9:7. Cherish the value of willing, purposeful giving. “Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” Giving to the work of the Lord is a privilege and a thankful response to God’s goodness, whatever means or method a parishioner might employ in doing so.
- 7 Parishes produce a variety of guidebooks, handbooks and directories for seasonal, annual, and special event use. Phone and email directories are typical, as are Stewardship Handbooks, Stewardship of Ministry service opportunity guidebooks, special music or theater productions brochures, and seasonal athletic team guides. Clip reminder articles on the subject of stewardship, and encourage members and guests by including those articles in each book or brochure.
- 8 Give everyone in attendance some way to participate in giving programs. A penny jar may seem an outdated way to fund projects, but when young children are encouraged to make regular contributions and are thanked for their efforts—no matter how modest—they will develop the discipline to give when ample funds are available to them as adults. Similarly, the unemployed or those on fixed incomes may willingly offer prayers but little more. Celebrate their faithful legacies too.

- 9 Maintain annual teams of working committees to help oversee your parish's prayer, service and finance ministries; share the responsibility and engage others in the joy of promoting growth, involvement and spiritual maturity.
- 10  For help with your parish's desire to develop spiritually mature Catholic disciples, read *Forming Intentional Disciples* by Sherry Weddell and encourage others on your stewardship committee to do the same.
- 11  Challenge your parishioners with a sense of the possibilities open to willingly generous congregations by reading the incredibly convicting *Passing the Plate* by Christian Smith.
- 12  To help focus your stewardship efforts in every area of ministry, read the stewardship classic: *Best Practices in Parish Stewardship* by Charles Zech.
- 13  Because certain ideas work better in one location than another, create and maintain a file of practical stewardship ideas that have been productive for you in your parish. Take notes and keep them current.
- 14  Create a time and talent survey within your church, matching ministry opportunities with those most adept at addressing them. Perhaps you might want to read and study St. Paul's letters for scriptural guidance: in particular, Romans, chapter 12, and 1 Corinthians, chapter 12.
- 15 Take time to celebrate. To honor the contributions of those who make a difference week after week, develop a 'volunteer of the week' feature through your parish website, a prominently displayed parish bulletin board, a special display in your parish hall, or in an online photo gallery.
- 16 Design and produce a wristband imprinted or 'debossed' with the name of your stewardship campaign theme. Distribute to members of your church's stewardship committee, or your church's youth and other interested members. Buy them in bulk and sell them as a self-contained fundraiser.
- 17 Maintain a list of actual ministry needs. Post it on your church's hall bulletin boards and on the church's website, and update it regularly. Acknowledge the generosity of volunteers who have taken on new responsibilities.
- 18 Make absolutely certain that those who sign up to serve in various ministries are contacted in a timely fashion and are thanked for their availability. Develop a system for reliable follow up, provide oversight, and follow through.
- 19 Include hymns in Sunday Mass that help promote stewardship health in the areas of prayer and devotion.
 - A "Jesus, Come to Us" (Haas)
"Listen to our prayer"

- B "Lord of All Hopefulness" (Struther)
"Give us, we pray, Your love in our hearts, Lord"
 - C "Pieta" (Kendzia)
"Lamb of God, have mercy on us; forgive us, Lord"
 - D "Prayer of St. Francis" (Francis of Assisi)
"Make me a channel of your peace"
 - E "Psalm 33: Happy the People You Have Chosen" (Cooney)
"Wait upon the One who is our help and shield"
 - F "Psalm 69: Turn to God in Your Need" (Cooney)
"This is my prayer to You: Favor my plea"
 - G "Psalm 116: In the Presence of God" (Kendzia)
"I will call your name, cry out your name"
 - H "Remember Your Mercy, Lord" (Inwood)
"Hear Your people's prayer, as they call to You"
 - I "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God" (Lafferty)
"Ask and it shall be given unto you"
 - J "There Is a Longing" (Quigley)
"Be near; hear our prayer, O God"
 - K "This Alone" (Manion)
"Hear, O Lord, the sound of my calling"
 - L "Those Who Seek Your Face" (Walker)
"O Lord, hear my voice when I call"
 - M "To You, O God, I Lift Up My Soul" (Hurd)
"Teach me Your paths, guide me"
 - N "With the Lord" (Joncas)
"He will answer whenever you call"
- 20 Develop an afterschool tutoring program and provide an intergenerational ministry opportunity. Enlist the help of senior members with appropriate skills in various subjects to teach younger members of the congregation as needed.
- 21 Near the end of each semester, convert the parish hall into an interactive study hall complete with laptops, tutors with skills in English composition, math and science, and supply various reference tools. Help students complete written compositions and study for exams. It is a service to students and a ministry to parents.

- 22 Build an online resource library using your church's website. Promote outreach and community involvement by connecting parishioners and the ministries you support.
- 23 Develop several shelves of Catholic resource materials and make magazines, brochures and flyers readily available, especially for new converts or for Catholics who've returned: catechetical information, brochures from area Catholic relief ministries, and national Catholic magazines.
- 24 Encourage greater involvement in parish ministries by producing filmed member testimonials. Create three-minute statements of purpose from volunteers who serve, inviting them to describe the blessing that service has been to them. If possible, enlist the help of students who express interest or have skill in the production of short films (some create worthy amateur productions using little more than an iPad). Catalog them, play them before various classes, or offer them in a rotating loop of testimonies online.
- 25 Ask parishioners to answer the question: Why Do I Pray? Invite them to write down their answers. With their permission, circulate several by inserting copies within the church bulletin during the annual Stewardship of Prayer. As evidenced by the following, be sure to include children.
- 26 Midyear—ideally between one year's Stewardship of Ministry efforts and the next—invite a first-time volunteer to express personal thoughts about the value of service. Interview him or her and create a two- to three-paragraph article for the weekly church bulletin based on the interview.
- 27 Connections are important. So is simple fellowship, and fellowship builds lasting friendships. In your newsletter, offer the personal story of a couple of people who developed a mutually meaningful friendship by serving together in a parish ministry.
- 28 Based on the idea that healthy, spiritual stewardship is more a way of life than a short-term focus, order oversized banners to hang in the parish hall, promoting stewardship as a way of life all year, not merely during focused campaigns.
- 29 Collect quotes from the saints and biblical proverbs on the subject of healthy stewardship. Send them to members as a weekly e-mail blast, tweet, or—if read aloud—as a podcast through an RSS feed. To connect with others, invite parishioners to forward and re-tweet messages.
- 30 Develop a social media presence by creating a parish Facebook page. Include a calendar of events, photos, event reminders, celebratory congratulations, and Facebook blurbs concerning activities. Add links to pertinent Catholic news in the parish, the diocese and across the Catholic community.
- 31 Generosity is a spiritual gift, honed through the wise investment of resources and the development of prudence in financial matters in general. To promote overall financial health, host a session featuring one of many programs designed to address personal and family budgeting and planning. Organize a team of mentors with the skills to counsel those in financial difficulty.
- 32 This time-honored, one-word bit of advice is essential: Ask. Don't forget to ask. When there is a need, ask parishioners to respond. As simple as it sounds, some people are just waiting for an invitation to give or to get more involved.

A handwritten note on lined paper, likely from a child, expressing their reasons for praying. The text is written in cursive and includes the names of family members and a pet.

I pray for Mommy and Pap and
Cissy. And I also pray for my dog, Max
Because I love them. And I love my
Whole family.

- 33 As often as possible, be specific. People will respond more favorably to a need they can visualize, personalize or quantify: Your gift will permit two children to attend summer camp, for example. Or, the gift of your time, one afternoon a week, will allow this young mother to attend language classes, as she acclimates to a different culture.
- 34 Include hymns in Sunday Mass that help promote stewardship health in the areas of ministry and service.
- A "Anthem: We Are Called, We Are Chosen" (Conry)
"We are Christ for one another"
 - B "Beatitudes" (Balhoff)
"Blessed are you, the lowly ones, who know the need to share"
 - C "Christ, Be Our Light" (Farrell)
"Let us be servants to one another"
 - D "City of God" (Schutte)
"Let us build the city of God"
 - E "Here I Am, Lord" (Schutte)
"I will go, Lord, if you lead me"
 - F "Light of Christ" (Kendzia)
"Bring the light of Christ to the world"
 - G "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service" (Bayly)
"Called from worship into service"
 - H "Lord, You Give the Great Commission" (Rowthorn, Taylor)
"Lord, You call us to Your service"
 - I "Service" (Ceasar)
"We are made for service, to care for each other"
 - J "Take Christ to the World" (Inwood)
"Show that we are his in the way we live"
 - K "They'll Know We Are Christians" (Scholtes)
"We will work with each other; we will work side by side"
 - L "Whatsoever You Do" (Jabusch)
"Whatsoever you do to the least of my people, you do unto me"
 - M "Where Two or Three Have Gathered" (Ridge)
"Gather strength for what You would have us do"
 - N "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart" (Westendorf, Kreutz)

“Selfless let us be, to serve each other in Your name”

- 35 Encourage personal devotion by printing and circulating the excerpt from St. Paul’s Letter to the Philippians: “Discern What Is of Value” from this year’s bookmark.
- 36 The inherent value of each parishioner—every one a child of God—suggests practical consequences. As someone has wisely said, “good stewardship begins with good stewards.” Every parish has a unique instructional opportunity. For many people, the Catholic Church is the only institution providing clarity, direction and education in the areas of time and money management. Invest in your people and teach healthy practices.
- 37 Budget, take notes, keep records, and monitor benchmarks. Know what you should measure, and learn how to measure it. By the grace of God, in the name of Christ, and in the power of the Spirit, the Church can improve the lives of her parishioners and the communities we serve.
- 38 If the measurement of spiritual intangibles seems somewhat difficult, don’t hesitate to ask your neighbors to help you assess your impact with questions like these: If we closed our doors tomorrow, to what degree would you miss having us here? In this community, what do we represent? As Christ’s Church, what do we do for you and yours?
- 39 Embrace change. Ironically, it is one of life’s constants. Regularly assess your programs and ministry efforts, too, and be willing to ask the hard questions: Do these efforts achieve the goals for which we designed them? Should we reinvest our time and resources doing something else? The best time to shift gears, or to replace a ministry program may be while it still enjoys some level of effectiveness.
- 40 Promote silence. Catholic saints knew the value of silence and the blessing of a spiritual retreat. In our busy and noisy culture, encourage silence by providing time for peace, reflection and quiet.
- 41 Include a stewardship spotlight article or blurb in every issue of your church newsletter or Sunday bulletin. Quote the Bible, offer a quote from the saints, include a story, cut and paste a devotional from the devotional section of this binder, or include a promotional piece highlighting various ministries within the church. Keep the candle burning.
- 42 Take time to reminisce. Remind parishioners of your church’s past successes. God did the same thing for the children of Israel. Throughout the Old Testament, they were reminded of the Red Sea and the blessing of a land of their own. We gather in some of the finest worship, fellowship and educational facilities imaginable, surrounded by the legacy of faithful generations that preceded us. The journeys we have taken, and reminders of the progress made, help us better shoulder the burdens of the present.
- 43 Utilize Small Christian Group studies as an opportunity to discuss stewardship efforts. Introduce questions like the following:
 - A Giving may mean many things, but sharing with others really isn’t optional. Giving is meant to be a normal part of life. How would you say generosity helps to define daily life and God’s purposes?
 - B When we begin any serious activity, we first plan. What are the benefits of identifying financial stewardship as a planned activity? What are the differences between planned and unplanned

giving?

- C Financial planners often suggest a biblical model of financial stewardship, one in which individuals and families save ten percent of income, contribute ten percent of income to charitable causes, and budget the remaining eighty percent for needs and wants, spending it wisely and intentionally. To what degree are you able to follow those suggestions?
 - D Even the youngest Catholic communicant is aware of the meaning of sacrifice because of the sacrificial death of Christ. How might that awareness, illustrated so fully in the Eucharist, help to shape our understanding of sacrificial giving?
 - E We hear a great deal about freedom, and we long for happiness. We cherish our freedoms and liberties, and we should. Many sacrificed their personal liberties to ensure ours, and “the pursuit of happiness” is part of our heritage. If we sometimes debate what it means to live in freedom, what does it mean to give freely, and what is the reminder that “God loves a cheerful giver” all about?
 - F Though various parishes utilize this curriculum in any number of ways—beginning an annual Stewardship effort, for example, with an emphasis on Ministry or Finance—the program was framed years ago with an initial emphasis on Prayer. In what ways does thinking prayerfully about our giving practices affect our financial stewardship?
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- 44 Stress the spiritual nature of giving at every opportunity. Financial stewardship is a matter of the heart, not of the wallet. And a true spirit of generosity becomes cultural and is contagious, borne of a heart of gratitude, an investment in ministries with lasting consequences.
 - 45 Encourage interested parishioners to create a personal prayer journal, a record of intercession and requests, and a corresponding record of God’s faithfulness in response.
 - 46 Plan. A twentieth century civic leader was known for the following proverb: Plan Your Work, then Work Your Plan. Like most programs of its kind, this curriculum promotes advance planning by teams of individuals who know their roles, with weeks of purposeful engagement followed by honest assessment. Take little, if anything, for granted.
 - 47 Images are important. Not just outward appearances, but also the meaningful symbols and signs that remind us of greater truths: the baptismal font, a crozier, certainly the cross and crucifix. Make a list of images that reflect the history and character of your parish and incorporate them in your stewardship efforts. You and your fellow parishioners will connect symbolism and investments with lasting value.
 - 48 With no promotional agenda, schedule meals or family game days and invite everyone to share time as a church family during your stewardship campaigns. You really are “all in it together,” and few activities promote engagement better than simple, extended fellowship.
 - 49 Frame an attainable picture of the future, one your people can readily envision and one to which your leadership teams are committed. Stewardship programs are designed for the present to help create the future God intends for us. Jesus knew “the place where he was going.” We wisely remind our parishioners that we do as well.
 - 50 Include hymns in Sunday Mass that help promote financial stewardship health and a spirit of

generosity.

- A "All That We Have" (Ault)
"All that we offer comes from a heart frightened and free"
- B "Be Not Afraid" (Dufford)
"Blessed are the poor, for the kingdom shall be theirs"
- C "Bread for the World" (Farrell)
"May we who eat be bread for others"
- D "Come to the Water" (Foley)
"Let all who have nothing come to the Lord"
- E "For the Beauty of the Earth" (Pierpont)
"For each perfect gift divine to our world so freely given"
- F "Gift of Finest Wheat" (Westendorf)
"You satisfy the hungry heart"
- G "In This Place" (Dufner)
"In this place we come together; faith in Jesus makes us one"
- H "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service" (Bayly)
"Consecrating to Your purpose every gift which you impart"
- I "Our Blessing Cup" (Hurd)
"For all the goodness God has shown"
- J "Psalm 15: Those Who Do Justice" (Mundell)
"The Lord will rescue the poor; help the afflicted when they cry"
- K "Psalm 34: The Cry of the Poor" (Foley)
"The Lord hears the cry of the poor"
- L "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God" (Lafferty)
"All these things shall be added unto you"
- M "Take, Lord, Receive" (St. Ignatius, Foley)
"You have given all to me; now I return it"
- N "The Church's One Foundation" (Stone, Wesley)
"One holy Name she blesses, and shares one holy food"

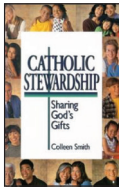
- 51 Incorporate the Scriptures in everything you do. As God directed, Moses instructed the Old Testament nation with a similar message: "Take to heart these words which I command you today. Keep repeating them to your children. Recite them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you get up. Bind them on your arm as a sign and let them be as a pendant on your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates" (Deuteronomy 6:6-9). We draw direction and great encouragement from God's Word. Share it.

52 From Colleen Smith, *Catholic Stewardship: Sharing God's Gifts* is—at less than 100 pages—a quick read, but it's also an instructive resource of stewardship recommendations, personal anecdotes, and additional ways to initiate a successful program.

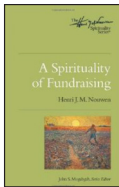
53 Authors Tom Corcoran and Father Michael White offer 75 proven tools that will help local parishes revive and restructure efforts to affirm outreach and missions engagement, each idea ready to implement right away.

54 Beloved Catholic priest, writer and educator Henri Nouwen defined stewardship, fundraising and development in spiritual terms. His book directs parishioners and stewardship committees to consider fundraising as real and essential ministry.

55 Invite parishioners to contribute a prescribed dollar amount to meet a specific fundraising goal—one amount from every individual or family. Say, for example, that one of your buildings requires repairs totaling \$250,000—an unexpected, unbudgeted cost. Assume you could point to about 1,750 individual giving units in your parish, and were to invite every one of them to contribute \$149. Well then, you'd realize contributions totaling more than \$260,000! Would some give more? Sure they would, and that's always true. (Just as some would fail to participate.) And yet, asking everyone to contribute a specific amount would encourage widespread participation, not only helping the parish to reach its fundraising goal, but enlisting the help of non-donors, some of whom might give for the first time.



56 Fundraising professionals and marketing experts are respected members of many parishes. They are certainly found within every diocese. Invite their expertise, and be careful to listen to their advice.



57 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, on your own intelligence do not rely; in all your ways be mindful of him, and he will make straight your paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6). Lean on and look for God's direction. He is faithful. With healthy intent, invite his Spirit to direct your efforts.

58 Love God, and love each other. Differences of opinion are inevitable, as are differences in defining priorities and approach. But, Jesus associated our regard for others and our love of God. “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27). Grant others the consideration we all desire.

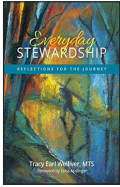
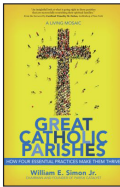
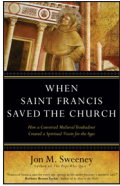
59 Called to remain “in Christ,” please invite the love of Christ to permeate all you do. As you work to further the kingdom in your parish, it is Christ's example that you model, and his grace will enable you to accomplish great things together, regardless of your circumstances. St. Paul understood that. “In every circumstance and in all things I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of living in abundance and of being in need. I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me” (Philippians 4:12-13).

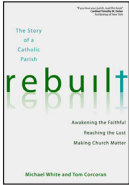
60 Pray. Begin with prayer. Pray throughout every effort. Conclude with prayers of thanksgiving. Pray. “In everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God, and he will supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6, 19).

61 “It is more blessed to give than to receive” is a familiar passage of Scripture. Though a saying of Jesus, it is found—not in the Gospels—but as part of a sermon from St. Paul (Acts 20:35). Discuss

the implications of first century Christians quoting Jesus just as we do today.

- 62 Use Instagram, Pinterest, Snapchat and other related social media platforms to celebrate your parish's community-wide ministry efforts.
- 63 Look through the youth handouts in each of the three primary sections of the curriculum—Prayer, Ministry and Finance. Adapt the material for use as opening activities and discussion starters in your stewardship committee meetings.
- 64 Encourage parishioners to take a day, a week or a month, and list every expenditure they incur. Do the same with regular activities and time spent in worship, organized ministry, and prayer. Answer the question: How much of my time, talent and treasure do I currently invest in serving my greater parish community?
- 65 To encourage graduating high school seniors and their families, develop a resource library concerning religious vocations, Catholic schools and colleges, scholarship opportunities, and Catholic youth internships. Keep it up to date.
- 66 If Total Stewardship really is "a way of life," ask a simple question: What have I done to express the benefits of Catholic stewardship in my own personal life today?
- 67 Invite a student participant or instructor involved in the Ministry and Theology (MAT) program to speak to your committee, adult group or congregation regarding the benefits of continuing Catholic education.
- 68 Visit the fundraising resource firm Blackbaud's website (www.blackbaud.com), download free PDF resources, and use the results of Blackbaud Institute research efforts to learn what non-profits, in general, are doing to implement best practices in their own stewardship efforts.
- 69 When planning a capital campaign, consider using Blackbaud's free "Gift Range Calculator"—available at the same Internet address as above—to help calculate the specific needs of your fundraising goals.
- 70 Promote the many ways your parish affirms other service organizations and related ministries throughout the community: Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, addiction recovery and counseling programs, athletic programs and more.
- 71 Former pastoral associate Tracy Welliver, MTS, offers a host of stewardship ideas and devotional reflections in *Everyday Stewardship*.
- 72 What makes a Catholic parish great? Attorney and law school professor William Simon isolates "four essential practices that make Great Catholic Parishes thrive."
- 73 In *When Saint Francis Saved the Church*, Jon Sweeney, popular religious historian, directs readers to the timeless contributions of the beloved thirteenth century saint.
- 74 Jesus taught his disciples a powerful lesson in a passage concerning a generous widow (Mark 12:41-44, and Luke 21:1-4), a story often called "The Widow's Mite." Read the two accounts and discuss the nature of sacrificial giving.

- 75 St. Paul served as a mentor to St. Timothy and offered encouragement concerning the young man's spiritual development. "Let no one have contempt for your youth, but set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity" (1 Timothy 4:12). Ask: In what ways do we encourage our parish young people to assume leadership roles that help them mature in the faith?
- 76 For those who follow the daily Liturgy, terms like Vespers and Compline are familiar and reflect Offices of Prayer. Consult a spiritual guide, adapt a spiritual retreat curriculum or a classic resource like the Rule of St. Benedict, and create a handout to encourage parishioners as they model the spiritual habits of the saints and religious.
-  77 To a generation of Israelites entering the Promised Land, God said, "I gave you a land you did not till and cities you did not build, to dwell in; you ate of vineyards and olive groves you did not plant" (Joshua 24:13). Many of us can identify. We serve parish communities formed by generations of faithful Catholics who, by God's grace, built facilities and ministries we call home. How might we honor their commitment in our day? What can we do to build upon their faithfulness?
-  78 Whether it's speaking two simple words, writing a Thank You note, or purchasing a gift to show gratitude, Catholics understand the value of expressing thankfulness in practical ways. Consider organizing a time of prayer exclusively set aside for expressing thanks for God's blessings and answered prayers.
-  79 A carefully constructed long term budget includes the blessing of additional income and a plan to reduce expenses wherever possible. To demonstrate effective stewardship, look for ways to reduce expenses without lessening ministry effectiveness.
- 80 Begin a Small Christian Group meeting, stewardship committee meeting, or other small gathering, asking questions about influential people: What person in your own life has influenced you the most? What saint has had the greatest impact on your life? And, what biblical character would you most like to emulate? How might their influences help each of us serve others most effectively?
- 81 In Rebuilt, Fr. Michael White and parish associate Tom Corcoran tell the story of Church of the Nativity in Timonium, Maryland, a parish they've seen God completely revitalize.
- 82 What are the most challenging ministry tasks in your parish? Some might say teaching teenagers is a challenge. Others would hesitate to speak in front of a group. Still others might find cutting the grass most demanding. Pair parishioners who handle those ministry opportunities with people who avoid the tasks. Encourage everyone to learn something new about life in your parish.
- 83 You may have discovered a packet of letters among family belongings you've inherited and realized why they were saved. Choose a target audience—shut-ins, hospitalized parishioners, those in active military service and their families, or college students—and invite your parish family (especially young people who have never drafted a physical letter of significant length) to create new packets worth saving.
- 84 "I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have I give," St. Peter told a crippled beggar in need of healing (Acts 3:6). In your parish, provide parishioners living on a modest budget plenty of opportunity to give of themselves from limited resources, and clearly communicate your appreciation for them and their contributions.

- 85 Your Web presence is a vital communication tool. Consult professionals—or technologically savvy parishioners—and make certain that your parish website displays well on all platforms: computers, tablets and smart phones.
- 86 The Catholic hymn “Faith of Our Fathers” was written by Frederick William Faber, a Catholic priest. Lyrics to the Christmas carol “Silent Night” were also written by a Catholic priest, Fr. Joseph Mohr. Research Catholic hymns and songs and utilize stories of their origin—as well as their words—as devotional inspiration.
- 87 Because they prize the quality of education available, many non-Catholic families enroll their children in Catholic schools. If your parish also supports a school, brainstorm a list of ways you might better connect with non-Catholic students and their families evangelistically.
- 88 Invite parishioners who are able to add an hour or two of overtime, or take on an occasional part-time job, for the sole purpose of contributing that additional income to God’s work in your parish.
- 89  Jesus ministered to hurting and needy people all along the roads he traveled, a leper in need of healing and a tax collector in need of restoration among them. How might you prepare your parishioners to serve the needy they may encounter—on their daily commute, and on the way to and from school?

90 Prayers of doxology and benediction are regular features of the Mass, and many are inspired by the Scriptures. A passage from Ephesians offers both: “I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that he may grant you in accord with the riches of his glory to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner self, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen” (Ephesians 3:14-21). Join with Christians throughout the centuries, invite God’s blessing, and honor the name of Jesus.

Closing Comment and an Invitation

Nonprofit fundraising is a challenge and always has been. Because true spiritual stewardship involves so much more, stewardship in your Catholic parish requires focused leadership and purposeful planning throughout the year. We have developed this material to honor God’s call on our lives and to assist you in your own stewardship efforts. As a gracious God directs, we embrace A Future Full of Hope.

If, through the blessing of God’s Spirit and its use in your Catholic parish, this material helps your parishioners grow in grace and commit themselves afresh to serve and to give—extending God’s mercy to those to whom you minister—then it will honor Christ, encourage you, and fulfill our own hopes. We know that you—as priests, parish staff members, stewardship coordinators, and faithful volunteers—join us in that prayer.

We always invite your ideas. Help us promote this Total Stewardship curriculum as an essential part of your parish development efforts every year. And please stay in touch.

It is a privilege to serve you. Please contact us at any time:

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The Catholic Foundation of South Louisiana

May God bless your efforts, and may you and your parishioners know the greatest level of involvement and commitment possible. As we affirm the claims of Scripture and the legacy of God’s Church, we minister to others. When we do, it is Jesus Christ we serve.