

Celebrating Stewardship Sunday November 12/13, 2016

Lay Witness Talks

Live Discipleship



Be Grateful - Pray - Serve - Share

Presented after the Prayer of Thanksgiving

Length: Two Minutes

A parishioner speaking to parishioners is one of the most effective ways to share the stewardship message. A person's or couples' faith story can be an incredible testimony to connect in unique ways with parish members.

This year, the question for your lay witness speaker(s) to address is, "How has living as a disciple of Jesus and Christian steward changed the way they look at the world around them?" Your speakers should approach the topic from one of the components of stewardship: gratitude, faith-filled prayer, compassionate service, or generous sharing. The stewardship committee might want to select the focus.

Sample Outline for Your Consideration

Introduce yourself:

1. Perhaps define stewardship: *Stewardship, for all who profess to believe in Jesus Christ, is an expression of discipleship, where giftedness is acknowledged with gratitude, nurtured through faith-filled prayer, and expressed through compassionate service and generous sharing in the Church, the local community and the world.*
2. State which component you will be speaking about (gratitude, prayer, service, or sharing).
3. Discuss what the tipping point might have been for embracing stewardship as a way of living discipleship.
4. How have the lives of stewards they've known been an example to them?
5. Is there anything from today's readings that spoke to them?
6. Invite others to increase their grateful response to Jesus by becoming more grateful and generous stewards of their time in prayer, their talents in service and their treasure in sharing.

Make it Personal:

Consider using stories, favorite quotations, a favorite saint, etc. Include all areas of life.

Considerations for Selecting Lay Witness Speakers:

- If possible, select different speakers for each Mass selecting someone who fits the demographic of that Mass (young families, retired, etc.).
- Choose someone visible to the community (greeter, choir member, lector, etc.).
- Person does not have to be a well-known public speaker but should feel comfortable reading their talk.
- Be sure to have your lay witness speaker(s) give a "written copy" of their presentation to the Pastor/Parish Director or staff person a week before.
- Allow your speakers to practice in church.
- The celebrant should publically express his gratitude for lay witness speaker(s).