Parish Stewardship Benchmark Study Results

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Diocese of Green Bay

Study Overview

In 2002 the Diocese of Green Bay, under the leadership of Bishop Robert J. Banks, affirmed Stewardship as a diocesan priority or thrust. The Bishop challenged all in leadership, both at the diocesan and parish levels, to be about the business of promoting Stewardship – A Way of Life. It is hoped that through this diocesan thrust, Catholics throughout Northeastern Wisconsin might truly experience a change of heart that will translate into lifestyles that are more prayerful, service oriented and generous in sharing all the many gifts God has blessed us with.

Through the generosity of the Diocesan Catholic Foundation and the Mark and Sally Follet Fund, to assist in the development and on-going promotion of the diocesan Stewardship thrust, in Fall of 2003 a study was done with the following goals in mind:

1. To provide parishes and the diocese with a benchmark of Catholic's current levels of stewardship awareness, prayer, service and sharing.

2. To provide a better idea of what might be the best ways to encourage greater stewardship awareness, prayer, service and sharing.

3. To provide a benchmark that could be used in future years to measure the impact of the stewardship thrust on the lifestyles of Catholics.

The services of Quality Research Partner Inc. of Oshkosh were retained to assist in the design of a survey instrument, technical assistance, sampling techniques, data management and analysis. Twenty-two parishes from throughout the diocese volunteered to participate in the study. (See appendix C for list of parishes.) 2,523 surveys were mailed to a random sampling of parishioners from each of the 20 parishes. 1,173 surveys were returned and collated for a return rate of 47%.

Grateful thanks is extended to one and all who made this study possible. What follows are the results. Your prayerful consideration of the information presented here is most welcome. If you have any questions, comments or reactions to the study feel free to contact Pastoral Services, Diocese of Green Bay, PO Box 23825, Green Bay, WI 54305 or by email at pastserv@gbdioc.org.

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Table of Contents

Study Overview **2**

Executive Summary **4**

Stewardship Awareness **8**

Stewardship Promotion **11**

Prayer **15**

Service **23**

Sharing **31**

Individual Parish Results **39**

Appendices

- **Study Methodology** **A-1**
- **Study Participants Profile** **B-1**
- **Catholic Stewardship Survey** **C-1**
- **Participating Parishes** **D-1**
- **Acknowledgements** **E-1**

Executive Summary

Stewardship Awareness and Understanding

Correct Definition – 35% correctly identified Stewardship as “A way of life marked by prayer, service and sharing. However another 45% incorrectly indicated that stewardship was “How you use your time, talent and treasure”. Those who reside in small town or rural area had a better understanding than those who reside in the city or suburbs. Those who attended 6-8 years of CCD/Religious education were more likely (48%) than those who attended 6-8 years of Catholic Schools (27%) to report the correct definition.

Attitude of Gratitude - Overall 81% reported they were at least above average in their belief that they were blessed and grateful.

Gift Tending – 26% said that they did an above average job of tending to their gifts of time, talent and material gifts. Another 8% reported that they very much so cared for those gifts. The greater your overall level of education the greater you believe you tend well the gifts given to you.

Change of Heart – 28% reported that they had at least an above average change of heart in the past year concerning their values and how they managed their lives. Those who attended 6-8 years in Catholic School (28%) were twice as likely to experience this change of heart vs. those with 6-8 years in CCD (14%).

Stewardship Promotion

Pastor’s Homily – 55% indicated that their pastor talked about stewardship at least once a month in the homily.

Written Materials – 47% said that they saw information in one written form or another weekly. Another 25% stated that they saw something either in the bulletin, parish newsletter or other written communication about once a month.

Overall Promotion – 48% agree and another 27% strongly agree that their parish promotes stewardship in a variety of ways throughout the year.

Best Ways to Promote – The following chart shows which strategies are seen as the best ways parishes can promote stewardship. The numbers indicate the percentage of respondents who indicated that they believed the strategy to be effective.

Put information in the bulletin	49%
Include articles in the parish newsletter	37%
Provide more opportunities for people to volunteer their time	26%
Send information via the mail to my home	21%
Provide lay witness talks during mass	21%
Offer more information about prayer	19%
Bring speakers to the parish to talk about Stewardship	19%
Have pastor talk more about it during homilies	16%
Encourage parishioners to fill out annual $ pledge cards	14%
Expand the number of articles in the diocesan newspaper	7%

Prayer

Mass Attendance – 60% reported attending on a weekly basis and another 12% indicated that they attended at least three times per month. The younger you are the less likely you attend mass at least three times per month. Those 18-30, 29% attend at least 3 times per month while 81% of those 61-70 indicated as much. Lower education level persons attend mass more frequently and whether one attended or did not attend a Catholic School did not appear to have a significant bearing on mass attendance rates.

Meal Prayers – 21% always say meal prayers and another 23% reported that they said meal prayers frequently. Age does not appear to be a significant factor when it comes to meal prayers with the exception of those over age 70 where 57% do so at least frequently.

Bible Reading – Overall only 6% do so daily and another 8% read the bible weekly. Age is a factor in that those 18-30 read the bible at least once a week 7% of the time, while there is a steady increase in bible reading over time with those over age 70 recording the highest levels a 18%. Men are just about twice as likely (21%) as women (11%) to read the bible at least once a week.

Morning/Evening Prayer – 51% of all respondents indicated that they say morning or evening prayers daily while another 10% said they did so at least weekly. Women (56%) are more likely to say these prayers than men (35%). The age factor is significant with those age 18-30 reporting a 21% daily prayer rate while those at each older age bracket reporting increases, with those at the top of the scale age 70 or older reporting a daily prayer rate of 80%. Those with lower levels of education have higher levels of daily prayer. Whether one attended or did not attend a Catholic School did not appear to have a significant bearing on daily prayer rates.

The Rosary – 10% reported saying the rosary daily and another 9% do so weekly. Lower levels of overall education show a greater likelihood of saying the rosary. Those who attended Catholic schools at least 6-8 years are twice as likely (22%) as those who spend 6-8 in a CCD Religious Education Program (10%). Age is definitely a factor when it comes to saying the rosary on at least a weekly basis as indicated by the following chart:

Age	18-30	0%
	31-40	02%
	41-50	11%
	51-60	10%
	61-70	30%
	over 70	46%

Family Prayer – 28% seldom and another 64% never gather at a time other than meal time for prayer. Only 6% do so on at least a monthly basis.

Service

Parish and School Volunteering – Overall 15% of survey respondents report that on at least a weekly basis they do volunteer work at the parish or parish school. Women (17%) are more likely to do volunteering than men (8%) Those who reside in small towns, rural and urban settings are twice as likely (average 16%) to volunteer over those from suburban areas (8%) Those who attended 6-8 years of CCD classes (24%) are more likely to do parish and parish school volunteering than those who attended 6-8 years of Catholic schools (14%)

Community Service – Study participants reported that 21% overall give of their time in community service at least once a week. Those aged 41-50 served on at least a weekly basis 33% while other age groups averaged only 17%. The higher the overall level of education the greater the likelihood of service. Those who attended 6-8 years of Catholic Schools (10%) were more likely to serve the community than those who attended 6-8 years of CCD classes.

Random Acts of Kindness – 57.5% perform such acts on at least a weekly basis. Women (59%) tend to offer them more often than men (53%) Those who do random acts at least weekly and who reside in the city or suburbs average 55%, while those from rural and small town areas do so at a higher rate (69%). Catholic school students (51%) do such acts slightly less than those from CCD programs at 59%.

Parish Ministry Involvement – 18% are involved in a parish ministry at least once a week. Those in the age groups 41-50 and over 70 average rate of involvement of 23%, while the average for all other age groups is 13%. Suburbanites report 7% involvement while those from small town, rural and city parishes average 21%. Of those who attended 6-8 years of Catholic school (15%) are involved while those who attended CCD/Religious education classes reported a (28%) level of weekly parish ministry involvement.

Sharing

Contribution of Used Household Items – 62% regularly and often contribute used clothing and household goods to St. Vincent DePaul, Salvation Army and Goodwill. Those aged 18-50 average rate of donations is 68% compared to those aged 51-over 70 is 57%. Women (67%) make more such donations than men (47%). Suburbanites donate at a 55% level, while those from small town, rural and city parishes donate at an average level of 65%.

Percent of Income Donated to Church – 49% overall report that they give at least 4% of their annual income to their church. Another 27% noted that they don't know what percentage of their income is donated. Those aged 18-60 have on average a 7% level of giving while those age 60 to over 70 report that 18% give at least 4%. Those who attended 6-8 years of Catholic Schools (22%) exceed those who attended 6-8 years of CCD (17%).

Increases in Church Giving – Overall those who reported that their church giving has increased somewhat or significantly was 39%. Those aged 31-50 increased at 48% while those at 18-30 increased 14% and those aged 51-over 70 increase rate was an average of 35%. Those who attended Catholic Schools 6-8 years increased giving rate was 34% while those who attended CCD/Religious education was 48%.

Bishop's Appeal Contributions – 20% have increased these contributions at least somewhat. Those ages 18-30 and 61 to over 70 increase an average of 14% while those in the age range 31-60 increased their donations rate to 25%. Those from suburbs increased at a rate of 28% while those from city, rural and small town areas increased an average of 16%. Those who attended Catholic schools 6-8 years had a 22% rate while those who attended CCD had a 31% rate.

Weekly Church Contributions – Overall 10% give on average $41.00 or more per week. None aged 18-30 reported giving at this level. Those aged 31-60 and those over 70 had 9% giving at this level. While those aged 61-70 had 15% giving at this level. Those in rural areas reporting 25% gave at the $41 level or higher while those from small towns, suburbs and cities averaged 7%. Catholic school attendees report 13% giving while comparable CCD attendees reported 3%.

Non-Church Contributions – Annually 34% give at least $251 to non-profit organizations not affiliated with a church. No one aged 18-30 met this level of contributions. Those aged 31-70 had a 41% level of giving at least $251. While those over age 70 had a 23% level. Those who reside in suburbs reported a 48% giving level, while those from city and rural areas averaged 32% and rural parishioners gave at a 21% rate.

Stewardship Awareness

Question 5 – Attitude of Gratitude

"In general as you review your life, how blessed and/or grateful do you feel?"

Overall Responses

Very much so	49%
Above average	32%
Average	17%
Below Average	01%
Not at all	01%

Those who selected "Above Average" and "Very Much So" consider themselves blessed

By Age

18-30	79%
31-40	83%
41-50	80%
51-60	83%
61-70	81%
over 70	77%

By Gender

Women	81%
Men	82%

Community of Residence

City	82%
Suburb	78%
Rural	76%
Small town	85%

Respondent Education Levels

Grade school	81%
High school	77%
Voc./Tech.	77%
College	88%
Grad school	86%

Catholic Schools – Years Attended

0	78%
1-5	78%
6-8	76%
more than 8	91%

Parish CCD Program – Years Attended

0	79%
1-5	82%
6-8	90%
more than 8	78%

Stewardship Awareness

Question 6 – Gift Tending

"To what extent would you say that you responsibly tend your gifts of time, talent as well as the financial and material gifts that you have been blessed with?"

Overall Responses

Very much so	08%
Above average	26%
Average	55%
Below Average	09%
Not at all	01%

Those who tend their gifts "Above Average" and "Very Much So"

By Age

18-30	36%
31-40	19%
41-50	46%
51-60	36%
61-70	43%
over 70	28%

By Gender

Women	33%
Men	33%

Community of Residence

City	34%
Suburb	23%
Rural	35%
Small town	46%

Respondent Education Levels

Grade school	14%
High school	28%
Voc./Tech.	36%
College	39%
Grad school	39%

Catholic Schools – Years Attended

0	33%
1-5	34%
6-8	29%
more than 8	42%

Parish CCD Program – Years Attended

0	29%
1-5	33%
6-8	36%
more than 8	45%

Stewardship Awareness

Question 7– Change of Heart

"Over the past year, would you say that you have had a change of heart, i.e. change in values or attitude, when it comes to how you manage your life, including your personal and material resources?"

Overall Responses

Very much so	06%
Above average	22%
Average	53%
Below Average	03%
Not at all	16%

Those who have had an "Above Average" and "Very Much So" change of heart

By Age

18-30	29%
31-40	25%
41-50	33%
51-60	38%
61-70	23%
over 70	21%

By Gender

Women	30%
Men	20%

By Community

City	29%
Suburb	15%
Rural	40%
Small town	24%

Respondent Education Levels

Grade school	14%
High school	28%
Voc./Tech.	23%
College	32%
Grad school	27%

Catholic Schools – Years Attended

0	26%
1-5	16%
6-8	28%
more than 8	36%

Parish CCD Program – Years Attended

0	27%
1-5	33%
6-8	14%
more than 8	29%

Stewardship Promotion

Question 2 – Homily

"How often does your Pastor talk about Stewardship during the Sunday Homily?"

Overall Responses

Weekly	19%
Once a month	36%
Couple times a year	32%
Annually	05%
Never	01%

Those who selected "Promoted at least monthly" (weekly & monthly)

By Age

18-30	57%
31-40	55%
41-50	60%
51-60	58%
61-70	57%
over 70	47%

By Gender

Women	57%
Men	49%

Community of Residence

City	53%
Suburb	55%
Rural	57%
Small town	64%

Respondent Education Levels

Grade school	57%
High school	52%
Voc./Tech.	62%
College	49%
Grad school	59%

Catholic Schools – Years Attended

0	58%
1-5	44%
6-8	50%
more than 8	54%

Parish CCD Program – Years Attended

0	49%
1-5	62%
6-8	55%
more than 8	57%

Stewardship Promotion

Question 3 - Written Materials

"How often do you see notices and information about Stewardship in your Sunday Bulletin, parish newsletters and other written communication from the parish?"

Overall Responses

Weekly	47%
Once a month	25%
Couple times a year	19%
Annually	01%
Never	02%

Those who selected "Seen at least monthly" (weekly and monthly)

By Age

18-30	57%
31-40	76%
41-50	78%
51-60	60%
61-70	68%
over 70	79%

By Gender

Women	73%
Men	68%

Community of Residence

City	71%
Suburb	70%
Rural	70%
Small town	82%

Respondent Education Levels

Grade school	72%
High school	70%
Voc./Tech.	77%
College	65%
Grad school	77%

Catholic Schools – Years Attended

0	78%
1-5	72%
6-8	64%
more than 8	65%

Parish CCD Program – Years Attended

0	70%
1-5	70%
6-8	76%
more than 8	76%

Stewardship Promotion

Question 4 – Overall Promotion

"My Parish promotes Stewardship in a variety of ways throughout the year"

Overall Responses

Strongly Agree	27%
Agree	48%
Not sure	18%
Disagree	01%
Strongly Disagree	0%

Those who "Agree" and "Strongly Agree"

By Age

18-30	71%
31-40	85%
41-50	84%
51-60	77%
61-70	72%
over 70	57%

By Gender

Women	77%
Men	68%

Community of Residence

City	72%
Suburb	78%
Rural	81%
Small town	73%

Respondent Education Levels

Grade school	29%
High school	73%
Voc./Tech.	84%
College	72%
Grad school	77%

Catholic Schools – Years Attended

0	74%
1-5	75%
6-8	82%
more than 8	78%

Parish CCD Program – Years Attended

0	66%
1-5	75%
6-8	86%
more than 8	85%

Stewardship Promotion

Section VI – Question 1. – Stewardship Promotion

"Please check which of the following are the most effective ways that your parish can improve the promotion of stewardship"

Overall Responses

Put information in the bulletin	49%
Include articles in the parish newsletter	37%
Provide more opportunities for people to volunteer their time	26%
Send information via the mail to my home	21%
Provide lay witness talks during mass	21%
Offer more information about prayer	19%
Bring speakers to the parish to talk about Stewardship	19%
Have pastor talk more about it during homilies	16%
Encourage parishioners to fill out annual $ pledge cards	14%
Expand the number of articles in the diocesan newspaper	07%

By Age

Overall, the variable age did not have a significant impact on the best ways to promote stewardship. For the most part those of various ages agreed statistically on the best ways to promote stewardship, with one marked exception. On the variable to "provide more opportunities for people to volunteer their time" on average those 31-70 years of age, 28% checked this item. Of those aged 18-30, 50% checked this item.

By Gender

For the most part responses from men and women were similar with the following exceptions

	Men	women
Send information via the mail	11%	24%
Bring speakers to parish	29%	17%
Lay witness talks at mass	12%	23%
More information about prayer	14%	21%

Community, Education Levels, Catholic Schools, Religious Education

For the most part there were no significant differences in responses to these questions based on these variables.

How Prayerful Are We?

Through the generosity of the Diocesan Catholic Foundation and the Mark and Sally Follett Fund, the diocese recently conducted a random sample study in 20 parishes to determine current levels of registered parishioners' awareness of Stewardship: prayer, service and sharing. Copies of the entire study should be available in the next several weeks. Some excerpts from the "prayer" section follow.

We were curious as to how people in the Diocese of Green Bay nurture their prayer life. Our study suggests that clearly 60% of registered Catholics attend mass on a weekly basis. For those age 60 and older, 80% say they attend mass weekly, however, only 23% of those age 18-40 reported attendance at weekly mass. Encouraging and challenging numbers at the same time.

Next in line was morning or evening prayer with 53% reporting they did one or the other every day. Of those age 60 and older, 69% say morning or evening prayers while 31% of those 18-40 acknowledge this practice. Interesting to note the younger crowd appears to be more likely to say daily prayers than to attend Sunday mass. The relatively high incidence of morning and evening prayer may provide some insight into the success of the diocesan *Lenten Little Black Prayer Book*.

Overall, 44% say they pray before meals daily or frequently. Age differences show that 51% of those over 60 say meal prayers daily or frequently while only 29% of those age 18-40 claim this practice.

Other results of the study indicate the following about other types of prayer:

- 11% say the rosary daily
- 6% read from scripture daily
- 4% always attend special parish religious services
- 3% gather with family members for daily prayer at non-meal times

During Lent this year, as part of the diocesan Stewardship Thrust, every parish will be asked to put some time and energy into helping parishioners grow and nurture their prayer life. According to the study, 14% of the respondents reported that during Lent they were able to nurture their prayer life at the "above average" or "very much" levels. As you prepare for Lent this year, how will your parish help parishioners nurture this critical aspect of Stewardship – A Way of Life?

This article first appeared in the Winter 2004 edition of "Pastoral Perspectives", the newsletter of Pastoral Services Departments in the Diocese of Green Bay.

Prayer

Question 1 – Mass Attendance

"In an average month, how often do you attend Sunday Mass?

Overall Responses

Every Sunday	60%
Three times	12%
Twice	10%
Once	08%
No Response	11%

Those who attend mass at least "three times" per month on average

By Age

18-30	29%
31-40	55%
41-50	73%
51-60	68%
61-70	81%
over 70	89%

By Gender

Women	72%
Men	68%

Community of Residence

City	72%
Suburb	68%
Rural	70%
Small town	73%

Respondent Education Levels

Grade school	86%
High school	76%
Voc./Tech.	66%
College	69%
Grad school	70%

Catholic Schools – Years Attended

0	69%
1-5	72%
6-8	73%
more than 8	72%

Parish CCD Program – Years Attended

0	73%
1-5	75%
6-8	76%
more than 8	60%

Prayer

Question 2 – Meal Prayers

"Overall – "How often do you say prayers before meals?"

Overall Responses

Always	21%
Frequently	23%
Sometimes	25%
Seldom	23%
Never	08%

Those who say prayers before meals "Always" or "frequently"

By Age

18-30	36%
31-40	40%
41-50	46%
51-60	38%
61-70	36%
over 70	57%

By Gender

Women	42%
Men	47%

Community of Residence

City	40%
Suburb	42%
Rural	49%
Small town	55%

Respondent Education Levels

Grade school	57%
High school	41%
Voc./Tech.	38%
College	46%
Grad school	50%

Catholic Schools – Years Attended

0	44%
1-5	50%
6-8	35%
more than 8	51%

Parish CCD Program – Years Attended

0	41%
1-5	48%
6-8	41%
more than 8	43%

Prayer

Question 3 – Bible Reading

Overall "How often do you read from the Bible?"

Overall Responses

Daily	06%
Weekly	08%
Monthly	05%
Seldom	51%
Never	29%

Those who read from the Bible "daily" or "weekly"

By Age

18-30	07%
31-40	09%
41-50	11%
51-60	15%
61-70	19%
over 70	18%

By Gender

Women	11%
Men	21%

Community of Residence

City	16%
Suburb	13%
Rural	14%
Small town	09%

Respondent Education Levels

Grade school	14%
High school	12%
Voc./Tech.	13%
College	15%
Grad school	16%

Catholic Schools – Years Attended

0	15%
1-5	13%
6-8	11%
more than 8	17%

Parish CCD Program – Years Attended

0	12%
1-5	13%
6-8	10%
more than 8	21%

Prayer

Question 4 – Morning/Evening Prayer

Overall, "How often do you spend time in morning or evening prayer?

Overall Responses

Daily	51%
Weekly	10%
Monthly	04%
Seldom	26%
Never	08%

Those who say morning or evening prayer daily

By Age

18-30	21%
31-40	34%
41-50	42%
51-60	44%
61-70	62%
over 70	80%

By Gender

Women	56%
Men	35%

Community of Residence

City	51%
Suburb	50%
Rural	49%
Small town	61%

Respondent Education Levels

Grade school	86%
High school	58%
Voc./Tech.	44%
College	48%
Grad school	46%

Catholic Schools – Years Attended

0	48%
1-5	38%
6-8	51%
more than 8	64%

Parish CCD Program – Years Attended

0	57%
1-5	51%
6-8	48%
more than 8	43%

Prayer

Question 5 – The Rosary

Overall, "How often do you say the Rosary?"

Overall Responses

Daily	10%
Weekly	09%
Monthly	05%
Seldom	32%
Never	43%

Those who say the Rosary "weekly" or more

By Age

18-30	00%
31-40	02%
41-50	11%
51-60	10%
61-70	30%
over 70	46%

By Gender

Women	21%
Men	17%

Community of Residence

City	18%
Suburb	17%
Rural	27%
Small town	21%

Respondent Education Levels
Those who say the Rosary weekly or more

Grade school	71%
High school	25%
Voc./Tech.	15%
College	11%
Grad school	18%

Catholic Schools – Years Attended

0	16%
1-5	13%
6-8	22%
more than 8	23%

Parish CCD Program – Years Attended

0	29%
1-5	21%
6-8	10%
more than 8	05%

Prayer

Question 6 – Religious Services and Programs

Overall, "Other than Sunday Mass, how often do you attend special religious services or programs, e.g. Holy Week, Marian Devotions, Adult Education programs, etc.?"

Overall Responses

Always	04%
Frequently	18%
Sometimes	30%
Seldom	27%
Never	21%

Those who attend "frequently" and "always"

By Age

18-30	00%
31-40	11%
41-50	27%
51-60	17%
61-70	23%
over 70	36%

By Gender

Women	21%
Men	24%

Community of Residence

City	25%
Suburb	13%
Rural	19%
Small town	30%

Respondent Education Levels

Grade school	29%
High school	24%
Voc./Tech.	16%
College	20%
Grad school	25%

Catholic Schools – Years Attended

0	21%
1-5	13%
6-8	22%
more than 8	29%

Parish CCD Program – Years Attended

0	25%
1-5	18%
6-8	28%
more than 8	21%

Prayer

Question 7– Family Prayer

Overall, "How often do members of your family gather in your home for prayer at a time other than meal time?"

Overall Responses

Daily	01%
Weekly	03%
Monthly	02%
Seldom	28%
Never	64%

Those who gather at least "weekly"

By Age

18-30	07%
31-40	04%
41-50	09%
51-60	02%
61-70	04%
over 70	03%

By Gender

Women	05%
Men	03%

Community of Residence

City	05%
Suburb	02%
Rural	03%
Small town	12%

Respondent Education Levels

Grade school	14%
High school	03%
Voc./Tech.	08%
College	03%
Grad school	05%

Catholic Schools – Years Attended

0	04%
1-5	06%
6-8	06%
more than 8	04%

Parish CCD Program – Years Attended

0	02%
1-5	06%
6-8	03%
more than 8	07%

Prayer

Question 8– Lent and Prayer

Overall, "During Lent last year, were you able to grow or strengthen your prayer life?"

Overall Responses

Very much so	3%
Above Average	9%
Average	48%
Below Average	22%
Not at all	17%
No response	1%

Those who improved their Lenten Prayer at least "above average"

By Age

18-30	00%
31-40	09%
41-50	22%
51-60	04%
61-70	17%
over 70	12%

By Gender

Women	13%
Men	08%

Community of Residence

City	12%
Suburb	10%
Rural	08%
Small town	21%

Respondent Education Levels

Grade school	43%
High school	12%
Voc./Tech.	10%
College	11%
Grad school	11%

Catholic Schools – Years Attended

0	14%
1-5	16%
6-8	10%
more than 8	12%

Parish CCD Program – Years Attended

0	09%
1-5	08%
6-8	31%
more than 8	14%

Service – Do We Practice What We Preach?

This Spring, our diocesan-wide stewardship efforts begin an emphasis on service. Many Catholic Christians look to Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 25, the last judgment scene, for guidance and wisdom in serving others. The Lord makes it very clear that on that final day we will be judged based on what we have done in service to the "least of our brothers and sisters." Jesus teaches that in the end, our actions and deeds, our efforts in stewardship, will speak louder than our words when it comes to living the Christian Way of Life.

Last Fall, through the generosity of The Mark and Sally Follett Fund of the Diocesan Catholic Foundation, the diocese randomly sampled parishioners from 20 different parishes in an effort to gauge current levels of the three areas of emphases of our diocesan Stewardship Thrust: prayer, service, and sharing. The following is a summary of the study results from the service dimension.

According to the results of this study, 15% of the respondents indicated they volunteer time on weekly basis at their parish or parish school (2% serve daily and 13% at least once a week). When volunteering time to groups or organizations outside the parish structure, the number jumps to 21% (4% on a daily basis and 17% at least once a week).

When it comes to doing random acts of kindness – kindness just for its own sake, 61% of all participants reported that they do at least one act of kindness on a weekly basis.

The study noted a Catholic education difference. The survey respondents with 1-8 years of Catholic School education were more likely to provide service outside the parish structure (22%) than service to the parish (15%). Respondents with 1-8 years of attendance at a CCD/Religious Education program were more likely to be involved at the parish (22%) and less involved in the broader community (14%).

This survey found women (17%) were more likely to be involved at the parish than men (8%). Charitable ministries serving the hungry, homeless, or others in need seem to attract more men (27%) than women (20%).

The survey found community of residence has an impact on the likelihood of involvement in parish based ministries as well. On average, 22% of those who identified themselves as living in a city, rural area or small town were involved in parish based ministries; only 7% of those from the suburbs reported such involvement.

In the end, what do all these numbers mean for us as parish leaders? One in five of our parishioners are living out the gospel call to service on at least a weekly basis; what might we do to encourage the other four?

This Spring, the diocese sent parish leaders some ideas on how to increase the levels of "lived" service among parishioners. If you misplaced your copy or did not get one, feel free to contact us. The survey will be repeated in the Fall of 2005. Let's work together towards raising the number of our parishioners who, as indicated in Matthew's Gospel, will be greeted by the Lord on that last day with, "Come, you have my Father's blessing..,"

This article originally appeared in the Spring 2004 edition of "Pastoral Perspectives", the newsletter of Pastoral Services Departments in the Diocese of Green Bay.

Service

Question 1 – Parish or School Volunteering

"How often do you volunteer your time at your parish or parish school?"

Overall Responses

Daily	02%
Weekly	13%
Monthly	23%
Seldom	34%
Never	28%

Those who volunteer at Parish/School at least "Weekly" (daily and weekly)

By Age

18-30	00%
31-40	21%
41-50	18%
51-60	08%
61-70	17%
over 70	15%

By Gender

Women	17%
Men	08%

Community of Residence

City	17%
Suburb	08%
Rural	14%
Small town	18%

Respondent Education Levels

Grade school	00%
High school	13%
Voc./Tech.	15%
College	17%
Grad school	16%

Catholic Schools – Years Attended

0	16%
1-5	16%
6-8	14%
more than 8	15%

Parish CCD Program – Years Attended

0	09%
1-5	17%
6-8	24%
more than 8	19%

Service

Question 2 – Community Service

Overall "How often do you give of your time in service to some group or organization other than the parish or parish school?"

Overall Responses

Daily	04%
Weekly	17%
Monthly	25%
Seldom	36%
Never	17%

Those who serve at least "weekly" (daily & weekly)

By Age

18-30	14%
31-40	19%
41-50	33%
51-60	15%
61-70	17%
over 70	20%

By Gender

Women	21%
Men	20%

Community of Residence

City	21%
Suburb	23%
Rural	08%
Small town	30%

Respondent Education Levels

Grade school	00%
High school	15%
Voc./Tech.	18%
College	26%
Grad school	32%

Catholic Schools – Years Attended

0	15%
1-5	25%
6-8	19%
more than 8	28%

Parish CCD Program – Years Attended

0	22%
1-5	17%
6-8	10%
more than 8	28%

Service

Question 3 – Random Acts of Kindness

"A random act of kindness is a spontaneous act you perform in service to someone - kindness just for its own sake." Overall "How often do you perform such acts?"

Overall Responses

Daily	19%
Weekly	39%
Monthly	25%
Seldom	13%
Never	01%

Those who do random acts at least "weekly" (daily & weekly)

By Age

18-30	57%
31-40	53%
41-50	62%
51-60	67%
61-70	68%
over 70	51%

By Gender

Women	59%
Men	53%

Community of Residence

City	54%
Suburb	55%
Rural	68%
Small town	70%

Respondent Education Levels

Grade school	29%
High school	53%
Voc./Tech.	62%
College	52%
Grad school	73%

Catholic Schools – Years Attended

0	54%
1-5	59%
6-8	51%
more than 8	71%

Parish CCD Program – Years Attended

0	56%
1-5	57%
6-8	58%
more than 8	62%

Service

Question 4 – Parish Ministry Involvement

"How often are you involved in a ministry in your parish i.e. liturgical, music, education, visiting the sick, social concerns, stewardship, etc.?

Overall Responses

Daily	01%
Weekly	17%
Monthly	16%
Seldom	26%
Never	39%

Those who are involved at least "weekly" (daily & weekly)

By Age

18-30	07%
31-40	15%
41-50	22%
51-60	15%
61-70	15%
over 70	25%

By Gender

Women	18%
Men	17%

Community of Residence

City	21%
Suburb	07%
Rural	22%
Small town	21%

Resident Education Levels

Grade school	00%
High school	14%
Voc./Tech.	20%
College	20%
Grad school	23%

Catholic Schools – Years Attended

0	19%
1-5	16%
6-8	15%
more than 8	22%

Parish CCD Program – Years Attended

0	15%
1-5	19%
6-8	28%
more than 8	17%

Service

Question 5 – Non-Parish Service Groups

"How often do you participate as a member of a service group or organization that is not affiliated with your parish?"

Overall Responses

Daily	03%
Weekly	13%
Monthly	21%
Seldom	38%
Never	25%

Those who participate at least "weekly" (daily and weekly)

By Age

18-30	00%
31-40	11%
41-50	20%
51-60	13%
61-70	15%
over 70	21%

By Gender

Women	16%
Men	15%

Community of Residence

City	14%
Suburb	17%
Rural	08%
Small town	27%

Respondent Education Levels

Grade school	14%
High school	09%
Voc./Tech.	18%
College	22%
Grad school	18%

Catholic Schools – Years Attended

0	14%
1-5	13%
6-8	13%
more than 8	22%

Parish CCD Program – Years Attended

0	20%
1-5	08%
6-8	10%
more than 8	21%

Service

Question 6 – Service to Needy

"How often do you volunteer your time at local community projects that alleviate hunger, unemployment, homelessness or in other ways serve those in need in our society?"

Overall Responses

Daily	00%
Weekly	07%
Monthly	15%
Seldom	44%
Never	34%

Those who volunteer at least "weekly" (weekly & monthly)

By Age

18-30	21%
31-40	17%
41-50	22%
51-60	19%
61-70	17%
over 70	30%

By Gender

Women	20%
Men	27%

Community of Residence

City	43%
Suburb	48%
Rural	38%
Small town	54%

Respondent Education Levels

Grade school	00%
High school	19%
Voc./Tech.	23%
College	20%
Grad school	27%

Catholic Schools – Years Attended

0	20%
1-5	28%
6-8	13%
more than 8	30%

Parish CCD Program – Years Attended

0	23%
1-5	17%
6-8	24%
more than 8	17%

Sharing – Just How Generous Are We?

This coming Fall, the diocese will focus on the third leg of the Stewardship Thrust – Sharing. Through the generosity of the Catholic Foundation - the Mark & Sally Follet Fund, the following are excerpts from the results of a random sample survey of parishioners from 22 parishes in the diocese.

While sharing and freely giving of ones time and or faith is important to being a good Catholic Steward, these areas of Stewardship – A Way of Life were covered in previous reports on the Prayer and Service Aspects of Stewardship. To be clear, the Sharing aspect of Stewardship has to do with how generous we are with regard to the material goods and money that God has blessed us with. Sharing challenges us to consider how best to be good stewards of the material goods and financial riches we have been blessed with.

When it comes to freely contributing used clothing or household goods to charitable organizations, 63% reported that they did so often or regularly. Those age 18-50 did so on average 68% of the time and those aged 51 and over averaged 57%. Women tend to donate material goods more than men (67% vs. 47%) and those who live in rural, small town, and cities on average gave more used goods than those in suburbs (66% vs. 55%)

Percentage of income given to church – 28% gave 1-2%, 21% gave 3-4%, and 19% gave 5% or more – but it is interesting to note that 27% responded that they didn't know what per cent of income was given to church. On average those aged 61 and over had 18% who gave at least 5% of income while those 18-60 only had on average 7% who gave at this level. Those who attend Catholic schools at least 6-8 years were more likely to give at the 5% or more level compared to people who attended religious education classes (22% vs. 7%).

When it comes to who has increased church giving over time, 39% overall report increased giving and 15% say they decreased giving. Those age 31-50 were most likely to increase giving averaging 48% while those 51 and over average was 35%.

For the Annual Bishop's Appeal 20% reported increases while 15% said that they decreased giving. Those aged 31-60 had on average 25% reported increases while those 18-30 and over 61 noted, only 14% had increased support. Parishioners living in suburbs were most supportive with 28% increasing donations to the Bishop's Appeal while on average those from cities, small towns and rural area had 16% with increases. Those attending 6-8 years of religious education classes were more likely in increase support vs. those from Catholic schools (31% vs. 22%).

Catholic parishioner financial generosity can also be seen in donations of $250 or more annually to non-profit organizations not affiliated with the Catholic Church. Overall 34% report donating at least $251 annually. This includes 8% overall that say they donate more than $1,000 annually. Those who live in the suburbs are most likely to give at least $251 vs. those on average from cities, small town and rural areas (48% vs. 32%) Men are more likely than women to donate to these groups (43% vs. 32%).

So based on this data, just how generous are Catholic Parishioners? The current study did not do comparison analysis of the giving patterns of those not affiliated with a Catholic parish, so it is impossible to answer this question. However, we do know that based on national studies, when viewing percentages of income donated, Catholics are usually around the bottom of the scales. Such information typically does not motivate increased giving. Instead the challenge for parish leaders is first and foremost to affirm and celebrate the generosity demonstrated here, and then over time, at least annually, invite parishioners to assess where they are in their giving and then invite them to take another step in faith in regard to increased Sharing.

This article first appeared in the Autumn 2004 edition of "Pastoral Perspectives", the newsletter of Pastoral Services Departments in the Diocese of Green Bay.

Sharing

Question 1 – Contribute Used Goods

"How often do you contribute used clothing or household goods to such organizations as St. Vincent DePaul, Salvation Army or Goodwill?"

Overall Responses

Regularly	21%
Often	41%
Sometimes	16%
Rarely	05%
Never	18%

Those who "regularly" and "often" contribute used goods

By Age

18-30	71%
31-40	60%
41-50	71%
51-60	56%
61-70	55%
over 70	61%

By Gender

Women	67%
Men	47%

Community of Residence

City	62%
Suburb	55%
Rural	68%
Small town	67%

Respondent Education Levels

Grade school	43%
High school	58%
Voc./Tech.	66%
College	57%
Grad school	75%

Catholic Schools – Years Attended

0	68%
1-5	53%
6-8	56%
more than 8	65%

Parish CCD Program – Years Attended

0	61%
1-5	58%
6-8	59%
more than 8	69%

Sharing

Question 2 – Donation

"What percentage of your annual income do you donate to your church?"

Overall Responses

1-2%	28%
3-4%	21%
5-6%	11%
7-10%	06%
More than 10%	02%
Don't know	27%

Those who give at least 5% of their annual income

By Age

18-30	07%
31-40	19%
41-50	13%
51-60	17%
61-70	17%
over 70	31%

By Gender

Women	19%
Men	20%

Community of Residence

City	17%
Suburb	13%
Rural	32%
Small town	24%

Respondent Education Levels

Grade school	00%
High school	20%
Voc./Tech.	27%
College	17%
Grad school	11%

Catholic Schools – Years Attended

0	16%
1-5	22%
6-8	22%
more than 8	17%

Parish CCD Program – Years Attended

0	18%
1-5	23%
6-8	07%
more than 8	22%

Sharing

Question 3 – Increased Church Giving

"The percentage of our household income, over time that is donated to the church each year has…"

Overall Responses

Significantly decreased	7%
Somewhat decreased	8%
Stayed the same	42%
Increased somewhat	32%
Significantly increased	7%
We don't contribute	3%
No response	2%

Those who have increased giving (significantly increased and increased somewhat)

By Age

18-30	14%
31-40	49%
41-50	46%
51-60	35%
61-70	34%
over 70	36%

By Gender

Women	38%
Men	39%

Community of Residence

City	36%
Suburb	43%
Rural	50%
Small town	33%

Respondent Education Levels

Grade school	29%
High school	39%
Voc./Tech.	36%
College	43%
Grad school	37%

Catholic Schools – Years Attended

0	38%
1-5	44%
6-8	34%
more than 8	44%

Parish CCD Program – Years Attended

0	31%
1-5	46%
6-8	48%
more than 8	40%

Sharing

Question 4 – Bishop's Appeal Contributions

"Annually your donation to the Bishop's Appeal is.."

Overall Responses

Significantly decreased	07%
Somewhat decreased	08%
Stayed the same	41%
Increased somewhat	17%
Significantly increased	03%
We don't contribute	23%

Those who have increased contributions to Bishop's Appeal (somewhat and significantly)

By Age

18-30	14%
31-40	23%
41-50	24%
51-60	27%
61-70	13%
over 70	13%

By Gender

Women	20%
Men	18%

Community of Residence

City	18%
Suburb	28%
Rural	19%
Small town	12%

Respondent Education Levels

Grade school	29%
High school	13%
Voc./Tech.	33%
College	15%
Grad school	18%

Catholic Schools – Years Attended

0	15%
1-5	22%
6-8	22%
more than 8	20%

Parish CCD Program – Years Attended

0	15%
1-5	22%
6-8	31%
more than 8	19%

Sharing

Question 5 – Weekly Church Contributions

"My (our) weekly contribution to the church is about.."

Overall Responses

0 - $10	35%
$11 - $20	33%
$21 - $40	19%
$41 - $80	06%
$80 - $150	03%
Greater than $150	01%

Those who give $40 or more dollars weekly to church

By Age

18-30	00%
31-40	11%
41-50	09%
51-60	08%
61-70	15%
over 70	08%

By Gender

Women	08%
Men	12%

Community of Residence

City	07%
Suburb	05%
Rural	25%
Small town	09%

Respondent Education Levels

Grade school	14%
High school	08%
Voc./Tech.	07%
College	08%
Grad school	16%

Catholic Schools – Years Attended

0	06%
1-5	09%
6-8	13%
more than 8	09%

Parish CCD Program – Years Attended

0	11%
1-5	08%
6-8	03%
more than 8	10%

Sharing

Question 6 – Non-Church Contributions

"My (our) annual contribution to the non-profit organizations not affiliated with the church is.."

Overall Responses

Less than $50	25%
$20 - $100	20%
$101 - $250	17%
$251 - $500	17%
$501 - $1000	09%
Greater than $1000	08%

Those who give $250 or more to non-profit organizations not affiliated with the church

By Age

18-30	00%
31-40	38%
41-50	38%
51-60	44%
61-70	45%
over 70	23%

By Gender

Women	32%
Men	44%

Community of Residence

City	32%
Suburb	48%
Rural	32%
Small town	21%

Respondent Education Levels

Grade school	00%
High school	23%
Voc./Tech.	25%
College	49%
Grad school	57%

Catholic Schools – Years Attended

0	30%
1-5	38%
6-8	31%
more than 8	45%

Parish CCD Program – Years Attended

0	31%
1-5	35%
6-8	38%
more than 8	40%

Service

Parish Vs. Community

Overall, 15% of respondents reported that they volunteer time on at least a weekly basis with their parish or parish school. 21% report that they give of their time in service to a group or organization outside the parish.

Of those aged 18-30, none reported that they volunteered time at the parish, while 14% reported that they did give time in service to a non-parish group or organization.

Women (17%) are more likely than men (8%) to volunteer at the parish, while overall women (21%) vs. men (20%) are similar in their involvement and giving of time to groups and organizations outside the parish.

Education levels had little impact on parish volunteer involvement. (overall high school through graduate school average 15%) However, when it comes to involvement in the greater community, those with higher levels of education are much more likely to be involved (those with college education 26% and those with graduate school education 32%)

Those who attended 1-8 years of CCD or religious education training (19%) are more likely to be involved at the parish vs. those who spent 1-8 years attending a Catholic school (15%)

Those who attended 1-8 years of Catholic school education (20%) are more likely to be involved in the broader community than those who attended 1-8 years in a CCD or religious education program (15%).

Random Acts of Kindness

Overall, 66% of those aged 18-70 do a random act of kindness at least weekly. Of those 18-40, 54% do such an act while of those 41-70, 62% do so.

Women (59%) do more random acts than men (53%)

Those who live in the city or suburban areas, 55% on average do random acts at least weekly, while those who live in small town and rural areas average 69%.

There are no observed differences between those who had primarily a catholic school education and those who attended CCD/religious education classes when it comes to random acts of kindness.

Parish Ministry Involvement

18% of all those who responded indicated that they were involved at least weekly in some form of parish ministry. Those aged 41-50 (22%) and those over age 70 (25%) had the highest levels of parish ministry involvement.

Community of residence has an impact on the likelihood of ministry involvement. Those who indicated they lived in city (21%), rural area (22%) and small town (21%) had the greatest levels of involvement. While those who live in suburbs had only a 7% level of parish ministry involvement.

Of those who attended a Catholic school from 1-8 years on average 16% reported involvement in parish ministry, while those who attended a parish CCD or religious education program 20% reported they were involved on at least a weekly basis in a parish ministry.

Non Parish Service Group Involvement

15% overall reported involvement with a service group that is not affiliated with the parish on at least a weekly basis. Those aged 18-30 had no reported involvement. Those 30-70 on average had a 15% involvement rate on at least a weekly basis. Those over age 70 had a 21% involvement rate.

There were observed differences according to residence; with cities (14%) suburbs (17%), small town (27%) and rural areas reporting 8%.

Those who attended a catholic school between 1-8 years averaged a non parish involvement rate of 13%, while those who attended a CCD or religious education program from 1-8 years, on average reported a 9% involvement rate.

Charitable Service

Overall 21% reported that at least on a monthly basis they worked in the community to alleviate hunger, unemployment and homelessness.

More men (27%) than women (20%) reported such involvement.

There were no differences in the levels of involvement for those who attended catholic schools and those who attended CCD or religious education classes.

Individual Parish Results

Overview

Parishes from throughout the diocese were invited to be a part of the Stewardship Benchmark Study. Through the Catholic Foundation and the generosity of the Mark and Sally Follett Fund, there was no cost to parishes interested in participating. The only requirement was the permission of the pastor or parish director to allow the researchers to draw a random sample of the names of registered parishioners from the parish. Size of the sample, was based on number of registered households in the parish and to allow a large enough sample to allow for reasonable statistical reliability of the results.

Twenty-two parishes agreed to participate in the study. (See Appendix A for a complete listing of the parishes who participated.) Included in the sample of parishes that participated were parishes from cities, suburbs, small towns and rural areas.

At the conclusion of the study, each parish received the results for their individual parish. These results included a graph that compared individual results with diocesan averages on key questions. In this way leadership was able to compare their individual results on such items as knowledge of stewardship, prayer, service and sharing with diocesan averages.

Included here, for the sake of discussion are the top five parishes in various categories for the survey. Key questions in each of the study areas of the Stewardship Benchmark Study were used for analysis. We applaud the efforts of these parishes who have done such a good job of making Stewardship – A Way of Life.

Stewardship Understanding

The following are the parishes whose parishioners correctly identified stewardship as “A way of life marked by prayer, service and sharing” Overall, the diocesan average score was 35%. Listed here are the top five parishes in this category with the percentage of their parishioners who knew what stewardship is.

1.	St. Denis, Shiocton	58%
2.	St. Agnes, Green Bay	57%
2.	St. Mary, Oshkosh	57%
3.	St. Bernard, Appleton	54%
4.	St. Mary, Menasha	47%
5.	St. Philip, Green Bay	4%

Prayer

The following are the parishes whose parishioners indicated that they said either morning or evening prayers on a daily basis. The diocesan average for this variable was 51%.

1. St. Mary, Menasha	67%
1. Sacred Heart, Appleton	67%
2. Holy Innocents, Manitowoc	66%
2. St Joseph, Appleton	66%
3. St. Mary, Oshkosh	65%
4. Sacred Heart, Shawano	63%
5. St. Denis, Shiocton	58%
5. St. John, Menasha	58%
5. St. Paul, Plainfield	58%

Service

Listed here are the parishes with parishioners who volunteer at least weekly at the parish. The diocesan average was 15%.

1. St. Bernard, Appleton	36%
2. St. Mary, Oshkosh	30%
3. St. Joseph, Appleton	27%
4. SS. Peter and Paul, Hortonville	26%
5. St. Paul, Plainfield	25%

Acts of Kindness

Parishes in this listing have parishioners who do a random act of kindness at least on a weekly basis. The diocesan average is 58%

1. St. Mary, Oshkosh	70%
1. St. Bernard, Green Bay	70%
2. St. Elizabeth Seton, Green Bay	68%
2. SS Peter & Paul, Hortonville	68%
3. St. Mary, Menasha	67%
4. Sacred Heart, Shawano	65%
5. St. Joseph, Appleton	64%
5. St. John, Antigo	64%

Sharing

Included here are the percentages of parishioners who indicated that their financial support for their parish has increased over time. The diocesan average was 39%.

1. St. Denis, Shiocton	63%
2. St. Patrick, Stephensville	59%
3. St. Patrick, Menasha	53%
4. Sacred Heart, Shawano	50%
5. St. Bernard, Green Bay	48%

Strongest Stewardship Parishes

Combining parish averages on all five key indicator questions, the following are acknowledged to be the overall strongest stewardship parishes among the twenty-two parishes that participated in the Stewardship Benchmark Study. The over all average was 40%.

1. St. Bernard, Appleton	53%
2. St. Mary, Oshkosh	52%
3. Sacred heart, Shawano	48%
4. St. Mary, Menasha	47%
5. St. Joseph, Appleton	44%
5. St. Denis, Shiocton	44%
5. St. Patrick, Stephensville	44%
5. St. Paul, Plainfield	44%
5. Sacred Heart, Appleton	44%
5. St	

Study Methodology

Summary

In Fall 2003, the Diocese of Green Bay did a random sample mail survey of parishioners from 22 interested parishes to determine current parishioner levels of stewardship awareness and practice as well as provide suggestions to parish leaders on how to improve parish stewardship effectiveness. Each participating parish received a report on responses from their parish as compared to overall diocesan study results. It is hoped that this study will be duplicated in future years to help measure the impact of parish stewardship efforts.

Study Goals

1. To provide individual parishes and the diocese as a whole, with a benchmark of the current levels of stewardship awareness, prayer, service and sharing.

2. To provide individual parishes and the diocese with a better idea of what might be the best ways to encourage greater stewardship awareness, prayer, service and sharing.

3. To provide a benchmark that could be used by the parish and the diocese to measure the impact of stewardship efforts in the future.

Survey Content

Questions were designed in the survey to gather information in the following areas. Questions were formatted to allow for easy computer data entry.

1. Stewardship Awareness – Has the respondent heard about Stewardship? What do they know about it? What is their reaction to it? How did they hear about it? etc.

2. Prayer – What is the respondent's current practice of prayer? Sunday mass attendance? Family prayer and religious rituals? Devotions? Religious images in the home? etc.

3. Service – How does the respondent serve members of their immediate household? Volunteer at the parish? Do volunteer work in the broader community? etc.

4. Sharing – What are their current levels of financial support for their parish? Bishop's Appeal? Church related charities? United Way? Other charitable organizations? etc.

5. Stewardship Education – What would it take for you to improve your current levels of prayer, service and sharing? How could the parish best support you in the exploration of this part of your faith life? What would be most helpful? – Adult Ed programs, bulletin inserts, witness talks, listening to Catholic Radio station, etc.

Study Process

1. Parishes throughout the diocese were invited to participate in the study. Support of pastor or parish director and permission to randomly select a sample of names and addresses from the parish were required. The names and addresses were selected randomly from the diocesan data base. There was no charge for this service to participating parishes. Twenty two parishes volunteered.

2. In mid September 2003, each parish was asked to include an announcement in their bulletin advising parishioners that the parish has agreed to participate in the Stewardship Benchmark Study. The announcement included words of support from the pastor or parish director and encouragement for the sampling of people who would receive a brief survey in the mail.

3. The study was done anonymously. Respondents were not asked to sign their names to the surveys. Confidentiality of individual respondents has been maintained.

4. The week following the bulletin announcements, each household in the sample would receive a letter from Bishop Banks. This letter advised them of their selection to participate in the study and urged them to complete the survey that they would receive in the mail the following week.

5. Sample sizes were determined by Quality Research Partner Inc. to allow for acceptable reliability levels for individual parish levels as well as to insure acceptable reliability levels for the diocese as a whole. Overall 2,523 surveys were mailed.

6. At the end of September, the survey was mailed to the randomized group. A cover letter urged those who received the study to take the time to respond. A stamped self addressed envelope for returning the completed survey was included with the mailing. Recipients were given the option of completing the paper survey or completing the survey on-line through a link on the diocesan web site.

7. About ten days following the mailing of the survey, a postcard was mailed to each household selected for the study to thank those who had already returned the survey and to encourage those who may not have had a chance to complete it yet.

8. The services of Quality Research Partner Inc. were retained to take the returned surveys, both the paper responses and the on-line responses, enter them into a computer and do data reports.

9. Pastors or parish directors who participates in the study received copies of a report outlining general summary data of respondents particular to their parish.. Also included in the report were comparisons of the individual parish and diocesan averages.

Study Participants Profile

By Age

18 - 30	5%
31 - 40	19%
41 - 50	20%
51 - 60	17%
61 - 70	17%
71 – older	22%

By Gender

Female	76%
Male	24%

Ethnic Background

Spanish/Hispanic/Latino	less than 1%
White/Caucasian	96%
Native American	3%
Asian	no responses
Other	less than 1%
No Response	less than 1%

Education Levels

Grade School	3%
High School	35%
Vocational/Tech School Junior College	22%
College	23%
Graduate/Professional	16%
Other	less than 1%
No Response	less than 1%

Community of Residence

City	53%
Suburb	22%
Rural	13%
Small Town	12%
No Response	less than 1%

Years Attended Catholic School

1 - 5	12%
6 – 8	33%
9 or more	25%
No response	31%

Years Attended Parish CCD/Religious Education

1 – 5	30%
6 – 8	10%
9 or more	21%
No response	39%

Frequency of Listening to Catholic Radio Station

Always	1%
Daily	4%
Weekly	3%
Seldom	37%
Never	54%
No response	less than 1%

Parish Code Number _____

Catholic Stewardship Survey

Welcome…, Thank you for taking the time to respond to this Catholic Stewardship Survey. Your thoughtful responses will help your parish and Catholics throughout Northeast Wisconsin to grow in their faith and improve the ministry provided by your parish.

You can complete this survey in one of two ways. You can fill in the blanks and return the survey in the stamped, self addressed envelope *or* you can complete the survey on the internet by going to *www.gbdioc.org*. Click on Stewardship and then you will see a line for Diocesan Stewardship Survey. This will link you to the survey company. You will need your parish code number (above) to access the survey on line.

This survey collects information on your understanding and practice of Stewardship. The results will be shared with parish and diocesan leaders. The information supplied by you will be treated as **Strictly Confidential.** The completed survey will be seen only by those responsible for compiling and reporting results. Data will be shared in such a way that no person may be identified. Please select one member of your household to complete the survey.

Thank you for your participation

I. Background Information

1. What is your age?

( ) 18 – 30	( ) 31 – 40	( ) 41 – 50	( ) 51 – 60	( ) 61 – 70	( ) 71 - older

2. What is your gender?

( ) female	( ) male

3. With what group of people do you most identify?

( ) Spanish/Hispanic/Latino	( ) African American	( ) Asian
( ) White/Caucasian	( ) Native American	( ) Other

4. What level of education have you completed? (choose one)

( ) Grade school	( ) High school	( ) Vocational/Technical school or Junior College
( ) College	( ) Graduate/ Professional school	( ) Other

5. Which best describes the community in which you live?

( ) City	( ) Suburb	( ) Rural	( ) Small Town

6. How many years of education did you receive attending a Catholic School?

( ) 0	( ) 1-5	( ) 6-8	( ) 9 or more

7. Not including attendance at a catholic school, how many years have you attended a parish C.C.D. or religious education program?

( ) 0	( ) 1-5	( ) 6-8	( ) 9 or more

8. How often do you listen to a Catholic Radio Station?

( ) Always	( ) Daily	( ) Weekly	( ) Seldom	( ) Never

II. Stewardship Understanding

1. Which of the following definitions comes closest to your definition and understanding of Stewardship?

( ) The way that government and other environmental groups talk about how to manage and care for the environment
( ) A way of life marked by prayer, service and sharing
( ) How you use your time, talent and treasure
( ) A concept used to promote generous financial giving
( ) A way to encourage prayer, active ministry and wise financial management
( ) none of the above

2. How often does your pastor talk about Stewardship during the Sunday homily?

( ) Weekly	( ) About once a month	( ) A couple times a year	( ) Annually	( ) Never

3. How often do you see notices and information about Stewardship in our Sunday Bulletin, parish newsletters and other written communication from the parish?

( ) Weekly	( ) About once a month	( ) A couple times a year	( ) Annually	( ) Never

4. My parish promotes Stewardship in a variety of ways throughout the year.

( ) Strongly Agree	( ) Agree	( ) Not Sure	( ) Disagree	( ) Strongly Disagree

5. In general, as you review your life, how blessed and/or grateful do you feel?

( ) Very Much So	( ) Above Average	( ) Average	( ) Below Average	( ) Not at all

6. To what extent would you say that you responsibly tend your gifts of time, talent as well as the financial and material gifts that you have been blessed with?

( ) Very Much So	( ) Above Average	( ) Average	( ) Below Average	( ) Not at all

7. Over the past year, would you say that you have had a change of heart, i.e. change in values or attitude, when it comes to how you manage your life, including you personal and material resources?

( ) Very Much So	( ) Above Average	( ) Average	( ) Below Average	( ) Not at all

III. Prayer

1. In an average month, how often do you attend Sunday Mass?

( ) every Sunday	( ) three times	( ) twice	( ) once y	( ) none

2. How often do you say prayers before meals?

( ) Always	( ) frequently	( ) sometimes	( ) seldom	( ) never

3. How often do you read from the Bible?

( ) Daily	( ) weekly	( ) monthly	( ) seldom	( ) never

4. How often do you spend time in morning or evening prayer?

( ) Daily	( ) weekly	( ) monthly	( ) seldom	( ) never

5. How often do you say the rosary?

( ) Daily	( ) weekly	( ) monthly	( ) seldom	( ) never

6. Other than Sunday mass, how often do you attend special religious services or programs? e.g. holy week, Marian devotions, adult education programs, etc.

( ) Always	( ) frequently	( ) sometimes	( ) seldom	( ) never

7. How often do members of your family gather in your home for prayer at a time other than mealtime?

( ) Daily	( ) weekly	( ) monthly	( ) seldom	( ) never

8. During Lent last year, were you able to grow or strengthen your prayer life?

( ) Very Much So	( ) Above Average	( ) Average	( ) Below Average	( ) Not at all

IV. Service

1. How often do you volunteer your time at your parish or parish school?

( ) Daily	( ) weekly	( ) monthly	( ) seldom	( ) never

2. How often do you give of your time in service to some group or organization other than the parish or parish school?

( ) Daily	( ) weekly	( ) monthly	( ) seldom	( ) never

3. A random act of kindness is a spontaneous act you perform in service to someone – kindness just for its own sake. How often do you perform such acts?

( ) Daily	( ) weekly	( ) monthly	( ) seldom	( ) never

4. How often are you involved in a ministry in your parish? i.e. liturgical, music, education, visiting the sick, social concerns, stewardship, etc?

( ) Daily	( ) weekly	( ) monthly	( ) seldom	( ) never

5. How often do you participate as a member of a service group or organization that is not affiliated with your parish?

( ) Daily	( ) weekly	( ) monthly	( ) seldom	( ) never

6. How often do you volunteer your time at local community projects that alleviate hunger unemployment, homelessness or in other ways serve those in need in our society?

( ) Daily	( ) weekly	( ) monthly	( ) seldom	( ) never

V. Sharing

1. How often do you contribute used clothing or household goods to such organizations as St. Vincent de Paul, Salvation Army or Goodwill?

( ) regularly	( ) often	( ) sometimes	( ) rarely	( ) never

2. What percentage of your annual income do you donate to your church?

( ) 1-2%	( ) 3-4%	( ) 5-6%	( ) 7-10%	( ) more than 10%	( ) don't know

3. The percentage of our household income, over time, that is donated to the church each year has

( ) Significantly decreased	( ) somewhat decreased	( ) stayed the same	( ) increased somewhat	( ) significantly increased	( ) we don't contribute

4. Annually your donation to the Bishop's Appeal is

( ) Significantly decreased	( ) somewhat decreased	( ) stayed the same	( ) increased somewhat	( ) significantly increased	( ) we don't contribute

5. My (our) weekly contribution to the church is about

( ) 0 - $10	( ) $10 - $20	( ) $20 - $40	( ) $40 - $80	( ) $80 - $150	( ) greater than $150

6. My (our) annual contribution to the non-profit organizations not affiliated with the church is about

( ) less than $50	( ) $50 - $100	( ) $100 - $250	( ) $250 - $500	( ) $500 - $1000	( ) greater than $1000

VI. Promotion of Stewardship

Please check which of the following are the most effective ways that your parish can improve the way it promotes Stewardship. (Please check all that apply).

___ send information via the mail to my home
___ bring speakers to the parish to talk about Stewardship
___ have pastor talk more about it during homilies
___ put information in the bulletin
___ include articles in the parish newsletter
___ provide lay witness talks during mass
___ encourage parishioners to fill out an annual $ pledge card
___ provide more opportunities for people to volunteer their time
___ expand the number of articles in the COMPASS the diocesan newspaper
___ offer more information about prayer

Thank you for the gift of your time to complete this survey.
Please mail by no later than November 8, 2002 using the enclosed envelope or mail to:

Diocese Stewardship Survey
PO Box 1592
Oshkosh, WI 54903-1592

Participating Parishes

Holy Family Parish, Marinette
Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Green Bay
Sacred Heart Parish, Appleton
Sacred Heart Parish, Shawano
Ss. Peter & Paul Parish, Hortonville
St. Agnes Parish, Green Bay
St. Bernard Parish, Appleton
St. Denis Parish, Shiocton
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Green Bay
St. John the Baptist Parish, Howard
St. John Parish, Antigo
St. John Parish, Menasha
St. Joseph Parish, Appleton
St. Mary Parish, Kaukauna
St. Mary Parish, Menasha
St. Mary Parish, Oshkosh
St. Patrick Parish, Menasha
St. Patrick Parish, Stephensville
St. Paul Parish, Plainfield
St. Philip Parish, Green Bay
St. Raphael Parish, Oshkosh
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Newton
Holy Innocents Parish, Manitowoc

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Questions, comments, and additional copies of the study – please contact:

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