

# STEWARDSHIP OF TALENT

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR SHARING YOUR GIFT WITH OTHERS

### **Parish Ministries**

#### Faith Formation Ministries

Catechist  
Teachers Aid  
RCIA Sponsor  
Youth Ministry Team

#### Liturgical Ministries

Lector  
Eucharistic Minister  
Music  
Greeter/Usher  
Liturgical environment

#### Outreach and Service Ministries

St. Vincent de Paul  
Knights of Columbus  
Lenten Soup Suppers/Fish Fry  
Funeral Receptions  
Scout Leader  
Single Parents Support Network

#### Youth

Youth Ministry  
Greeter/Usher  
Youth Choir  
Summer Bible School Leader

#### Children

Children's Choir  
Altar Server

### **Ecumenical and Community**

#### Homeless Shelter

Help plan, cook or serve meals

#### Crisis Pregnancy Center

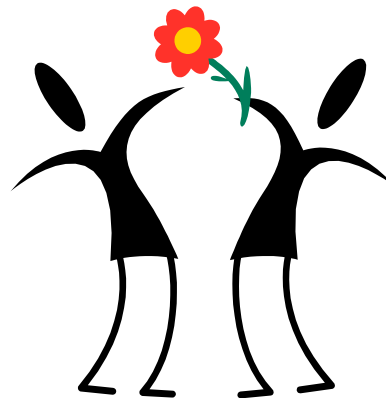
Counsel women in crisis pregnancies

#### Habitat for Humanity

Build a home for a low income family,  
partnering with people from neighboring  
Christian churches

#### Earth Day Observance

Plan and participate in environmental clean-  
up projects as a family service activity



## STEWARDSHIP: OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GENEROSITY

**C**hristian Stewardship is a way of life based on the understanding that everything we are and everything we have belongs to God – we are stewards not owners of God's bounty – and we will be held accountable for how we used the many gifts entrusted to our care. We respond to God's generosity with love and gratitude by developing our gifts to their full potential, sharing them generously with others and using them wisely to serve one another.

### STEWARDSHIP THE GIFT OF TALENT

A "talent" is not necessarily something at which we are very skilled. Being a good steward of our talents means using whatever God gave us to the best of our ability to build up His kingdom. When we name our talents we are not bragging because we know that each trait is a gift from God. And we needn't feel that we don't have enough talents to make a difference. God will make whatever he gave us "enough" to fulfill His plan if we generously share the gifts we do have with others.

#### **What are my Talents?**

God made each of us in His own image and likeness, and yet unique in all the world! We each have a special combination of aptitudes and abilities, interests and passions, skills and experiences that make us who we are and equip us to do what God needs us to do. Whether you are a good listener, a computer programmer, a good cook, a concert pianist, a warm hugger or a motivational speaker – God gave you a valuable talent to be cultivated and shared.

#### **How do I/can I use my Talents?**

Opportunities about in our day-to-day lives to use our talents to serve others. We use them to take care of our families, help our friends and neighbors, contribute to society through our work and civic activities, assist at the school, participate in parish life and do community service.

#### **Monthly Reflection**

Take this opportunity to identify the particular gifts with which God has blessed you. If you do this with your family or friends, you can share your insights and also identify some of the gifts you see in them that they may not notice in themselves – and they in you!

#### **Monthly Plan**

As a good steward of your gifts, make a conscious decision to develop one of your gifts (take a class?) and to purposefully use some of your gifts to serve others. If you are already involved in a parish ministry, this may be the time to try a new ministry – to use some of your other gifts and give others the opportunity to develop theirs. Your stewardship plan may include not only one or two ministries in the parish, but also giving your time and using your talents in the school, neighborhood, a civic group or local charity.

**"There are different gifts but the same Spirit,**  
there are different ministries but the same Lord,  
there are different works but the same God who  
accomplished all of them in everyone." (1Cor 12:4-5)

STEWARDSHIP  
*A Way of Life* 