Introduction

"The Christian vocation is essentially a call to be a disciple of Jesus. Stewardship is part of that. Even more to the point, however, Christians are called to be good stewards of the personal vocation they receive. Each of us must discern, accept, and live out joyfully and generously the commitments, responsibilities, and roles to which God calls him or her."

Stewardship — A Disciple's Response
The U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Stewardship

In order to facilitate the Christian vocation of responding to the "Call to Discipleship" and to nurture stewardship as a lifelong "Way of Life:"

1) Individuals should develop and exhibit certain characteristics depicting their love of and example of following Christ;
2) Parishes should acknowledge and exhibit stewardship as the "key" to an alive, vibrant parish where dedicated and committed parishioners, giving freely of their time, talent, and treasure, without expectation of return, create a dynamic atmosphere that invites and encourage others to become involved and sets a positive example for the entire parish community. Parishes should develop, foster, nurture and maintain a parish stewardship process, exhibiting certain characteristics, providing parishioners, young and old, the opportunities to learn about, experience and live out the lifelong "Way of Life," serving the parish community, the diocesan and wider universal Church;
3) Parishioners should sense and feel that their parish is a place of *Formation*, *Hospitality*, *Prayer*, and *Service* within which they experience the invitation and opportunity to serve and to be served.

The attached forms have been designed to assist pastors and parish leadership in reviewing and evaluating their parish stewardship process and the effectiveness thereof in facilitating the "Call to Discipleship" whereby parishioners are drawn to and converted to that lifelong *"stewardship way of life."*

Parish Evaluation Simplified

Parish life is a continuous evolution. While the Truth in Eucharist will never change, the methods in which Stewards share that Truth with our fellow parishioners must evolve. There are many activities, while noble indeed, but they may not be reaching our families. There are activities that can engage our family we may not be aware of that are needed. Therefore, a parish evaluation is necessary to meet this continuous evolution. If we do not provide the services and programs that are wanted, our family will seek them out elsewhere. An evaluation of the parish will give all parishioners voice in the parish and will draw out many gifts of time and talent that may otherwise go unnoticed.

The evaluation should be a function of the Pastor and Pastoral Council with results distributed to subsidiary leadership. The results will produce a variety of responses that are best considered by the Primary leadership of the parish. The results should be utilized to fulfill the overall vision of Pastor and Pastoral Council.

The following single question is a simple yet effective means of drawing out parishioners' ideals and visions for parish life. Not every suggestion can be used, however, the overall response can give parish leadership a good idea of the temperament of the parish and begin addressing the desires of those engaged in parish life. In addition, responses can help engage those whom we strive to bring Truth.

How could *Parish Name* better serve your social, spiritual and parish family needs?

It is suggested this open ended question be delivered at Mass on simple card stock and returned either at Mass or parish office. Preparing the congregation for the evaluation can be done through the bulletin and pulpit announcements several weeks before responses are requested.
This will give all parishioners time to consider the question. Administering the evaluation at mass aids in collecting responses in a timely fashion.

Results

Once collected, like responses should be tallied. The Pastor and Parish Council can then identify programs and activities most desired by the parish family. Likewise, issues on the minds of the family can be identified and addressed. Also, the relative urgency can be identified and can give leadership focus on what needs immediate action and what can be addressed or incorporated at a later date.

Once the compilation of responses is complete, a report should be distributed throughout the parish via bulletin, website, and newsletter. This will allow all parishioners the opportunity to see what direction the parish is taking and get an overall picture of the temperament of its members.

Pastors need to organize a meeting with parish leadership from all councils to identify what councils and committees will respond to the desired ministries. Remember, if we do not do anything with the responses, the evaluation is meaningless. Action is desired to meet the changing needs of our family. Again, it must be noted that not every objective needs to be met at once. Three to five should be selected to insure that those ministries and needs are not only completed, but completed well. Last, parishioners may indicate that some parish ministries and activities may no longer be wanted or needed. While difficult, it may be time to let them go.

Formal evaluations, such as questionnaires, can also be used to draw specific conclusions of parish activities. To get a broad sense of how the parish is doing, the open ended question is preferred.

Parishes should plan an evaluation every five years. This will ensure that ministries keep up with the changing needs of the parish family.

Evaluation Statistics			
	2015	2016	2017
Number of Families in Parish			
Time & Talent Commitments Returned *English*			
Time & Talent Commitments Returned *Spanish*			
Time and Talent Participation Rate			
Treasure Commitments Returned *English*			
Treasure Commitments Returned *Spanish*			
Treasure Participation Rate			
New Commitments Returned *English*			
New Commitments Returned *Spanish*			
New Commitment Participation Rate			
Total Participation Rate			