

Stewarding Our Ministries: It's Not Just About Money

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Christ Has No Body

Christ has no body on earth but ours,
No hands but ours, no feet but ours.
Ours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ looks out upon the world,
Ours are the feet with which he goes about doing good,
Ours are the hands with which he blesses his people.

Saint Teresa of Avila (1515–1582)

Resource: Stewardship: A Disciple's Response – A Pastoral Letter on Stewardship – USCCB.

How do we understand Stewardship? What do others hear when we say “Stewardship”?

Is there a difference between “Stewardship” and “Discipleship”?

James 2:14-18

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,” but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Indeed someone might say, “You have faith and I have works.” Demonstrate your faith to me without works, and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works.

Matthew 14:15-16

When it was evening, the disciples approached him and said, “This is a deserted place and it is already late; dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves.”

[Jesus] said to them, “There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves.”

Tools –

How do we call forth ministers?

How often do we call forth ministries?

Do we encourage our youth, our newly received members?

Stewardship of those who step forward

Do we acknowledge when they have responded to our call? Do we train and schedule parishioners who respond in a timely manner? Do we offer resources?

Do we schedule in a way that makes sense of individual and family needs?

Do we truly believe that our members are called to be disciples and stewards?

Do we recognize the gifts that we have been given and use them appropriately in the service of God?