



How to Communicate and Encourage Children's Stewardship

Diocese of Springfield, IL
Discipleship & Stewardship
Webinar Series



Let us pray...

God of mercy, You have given us this special time to reflect on our lives, believe in the Good News and draw closer to You. May this season of Lent help us be good stewards of this time: to fast and pray, be more generous and show others how to live in Christ.

Let us see each day of this season as a new opportunity to renew our lives and gain an appreciation of Your active presence in us and our community of faith.

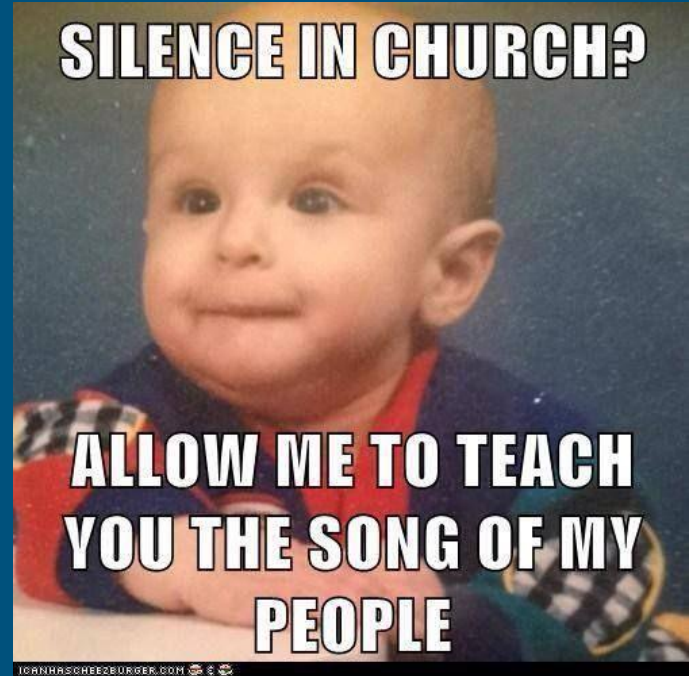
Give us the grace to see Your face in others, especially the poor and those who suffer. And through your Spirit, enkindle in us the fire of Your love so that we may be better stewards of Your redeeming work throughout the world. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son.

Amen.

(from the International Catholic Stewardship Council 2014)

Roadmap

- Prayer
- Why is teaching Stewardship important to children?
- Children's Stewardship Overview: What works?
- Collaborating Techniques
- Question and Answer Time



Stewardship

What is it?

Stewardship is not fundraising...and a school should be doing both.

Stewardship is a great spiritual practice to teach students:

Pray. Serve. Give.

They already do stewardship, we just aren't calling it that.

Why?

Don't children have enough to learn?!

Not just an “adult” thing or service project

Consumerism and materialistic culture

Kids receive 3,000 ad messages a day (including those now being imbedded into movies and television.) By the time they are 21 they will have received 23 million advertising messages.

Stewardship can help build self-esteem

Stewardship teaches the difference between needs and wants: holiness and happiness

Teaches kids to act on their faith and share their faith: ie. witness testimonials

Stewardship
is a spiritual
practice for
discipleship
making.



Stewardship

Why is it important for my community to teach children about stewardship?

Evangelize the parents

Encourage future faith participation

Normalizes the behavior

Opportunities for news (new ideas, kids doing service, giving days, etc.)

Bridges current parishioners with school/PSR families

Multi-generational discipleship making

So, what are
you currently
doing?



Stewardship Anchors for Kids

Prayer	→	Mass Intentions, Class Prayer, Online wall
Service	→	Coordinate with Parish Ministries
Giving	→	Provide envelopes, School Mass Sundays
Acknowledgement	→	Kids TY's to each other, Ministries, Donors
Witness	→	Teacher Stories, Recent Alumni

Challenges to Teaching Stewardship

Lack of support from parents

Don't feel comfortable talking about "money" with students

Lack of knowledge on stewardship from volunteers teaching PSR/School

Lack of resources for multitude of ages, backgrounds, denominations



Collaboration Is Key!

Leveraging Your Community to
Children's Stewardship

Stop the Silos!

Children's opportunity as grantor

- Let kids select a charity which will be the recipient of their gifts.
- Designate how offertory gifts will be used

New Family Communications

Children present as witness during
your annual Season of Stewardship

Introducing Children's Envelopes

Communicate it is NOT another fundraiser!

Distribution of envelopes weekly/monthly as opposed to once/year- Utilize your bulletin co.

Utilize examples for witness in bulletin

Might need to rethink Offertory!

Design own envelope in Art! Change based on age- OSV

Don't forget the TY! (Post-card)

My Stewardship Envelope

How will you be a disciple this week?

This is how I will pray:

This is how I will help a friend:

This is how I will be generous:



Do you tithe?

This is anonymous ;)



Teaching the Tithe

Upper Grades

Remind them what tithe is and how Jesus challenged us further

Tithe can work in many ways outside of money: Toys in room, favorite hobby, sharing with siblings, etc.

10% of an hour = 6 min.

Work from an allowance chart:

\$1 allowance - 10 pennies back to God; \$2 - 2 dimes; \$5 - 2 quarters, etc.

Presenting Stewardship

Lower/Primary Grades

Friendship:

- Pray = Talking
- Serve = Helping
- Give = Bday Gifts

Share Bible Stories

- Widow's Contribution (Mark 12: 41)
- Conditions of Discipleship Matt 16

GPS: The roadmap to Heaven

- Give, Pray, Serve

Church Money Book: Fr. Michael White

Presenting Stewardship

Middle/Upper Grades

GPS still works!

Friendship Defined - incorporate
Mass and Confession

What would Jesus be saying on His
YouTube channel? Write the script

Insta-famous Stewardship
Scripture- draft the message

Work on “funding” priorities and
impact with Stewardship Council

Questions?

Follow-up by emailing Katie at kprice@archchicago.org