

LAY WITNESS FINAL CHECKLIST

Overall

- Once you have completed the first draft of your pulpit talk, compare it to this checklist.
- Overall
- Did I keep my personal introduction very brief and avoid unnecessary details?
- Did I give a positive definition of stewardship, emphasizing that stewardship means a total giving of ourselves? God owns everything. We are only on earth to share our gifts.
- Did I remind people that the stewardship way of life is deeply rooted in sacred scripture, both the Old and New Testament?
- Did I emphasize the joy and fulfillment that I (and my family) have found in the stewardship way of life?
- Did I ask people to reflect on what's good in their lives? Ask them if God gets any credit for this goodness? Ask them how they show their thankfulness to God for this goodness?
- Did I share a brief story of what stewardship means to me or how stewardship has become a part of my life?
- Did I include my own struggles along the way?

Prayer

- Did I talk about spending more time with God, so that we can know how God expects us to share our gifts?
- Did I stress that stewardship flows from our loving and grateful relationship with God? If we do not have God at the center of our lives, it is difficult for us to be good stewards.
- Did I emphasize that we must ask God each day what He wants us to do with the gifts He has given us? Participation
- Did I invite people to become involved in the ministry of the parish?
- Did I encourage people to offer their unique talents?
- Did I stress how much more rewarding the parish experience can be when a person is actively involved in the ministries of the parish?
- Did I give examples of different kinds of parish ministries that need volunteers now?

Generosity

- Did I stress that a grateful share is the first share? Stewardship means giving the "first fruits," giving "off the top," not the "leftovers."
- Did I encourage people to know what percentage they currently give to God? Did I ask them to think about whether that percentage truly reflects their gratitude to God?
- Did I talk about the need to plan our giving, explaining that stewardship means making a commitment to give a definite percentage on a regular basis, not just occasionally?
- Have I avoided talking about a specific dollar amount for each person to give, realizing that we are all called to give as God has given to us?

Adapted from the Archdiocese
of St. Louis Lay Witness
Training Guide

- Did I present tithing in a positive way – not as a strict and difficult mandate but as a helpful and fulfilling guideline?
- Did I suggest that the entire family be involved in the decision about the family's giving?
- Did I avoid talking about parish needs and instead talk about the need that all of us have to give back to God with our time, our talent, and our treasure? Conclusion
- Did I praise the good stewardship that already exists in the parish?
- Did I strive to create a sense of pride in the parish and a desire to be more deeply involved and invested in this great parish?
- Did I warmly invite others to share the joy that comes to those who give God the first share of their time, talent, and treasure?
- Did I clearly outline what steps the parish is asking parishioners to take currently?

Presentation

- Have I prepared my talk so that it is easily readable while I am at the pulpit?
- Have I avoided using ALL CAPITAL LETTERS BECAUSE OUR EYES CANNOT QUICKLY AND EASILY READ THIS WAY? Have I used bullets and highlights to help me move through the talk more easily while maintaining eye contact?
- Have I read my talk out loud several times to make sure it sounds natural and that sentences are not too long?
- Have I kept my talk to a recommended length – not more than 5-7 minutes? Since the average person speaks 200 words or less a minute, this means the talk should be no more than 1,000 – 1,400 words.