

Role of the Parents

The example of the parent is the primary way a child learns to give. Giving is one of those values that is caught rather than taught. Parents need to be living models of stewardship for their children. In addition to modeling the stewardship way of life for their children, they should tell them why they are giving of their time, talent and treasure. Make the children aware of the joy, peace, and happiness that come with a commitment to stewardship. Children should be asked and encouraged to join their parents in some of their stewardship activities. Some specific ways that parents can foster stewardship in their children might include:

Provide their children with a vision of a sharing, generous, accountable way of life. (1992 U.S. Bishops Pastoral Letter, Stewardship: A Disciple's Response).

Instill in their children an attitude of gratitude by reminding them that all we have, are and will be is a gift from God.

Make prayer a part of the daily family life, especially prayers of gratitude.

Discern, nurture, and share their own gifts so that they can model a stewardship way of life for their children.

Guide their children in discerning their own gifts and provide them with opportunities in which to share them; thereby building up God's Kingdom.

Fulfill their promise as stewards of baptized children to educate them in their Catholic faith, teaching them that they are part of the Universal Church.

Grow spiritually as faithful stewards by participating at Mass and by receiving the sacraments regularly.

Encourage their children to give a proportionate amount of their allowance, cash gifts, and earnings to the parish and/or other charitable organizations.