



**Stewardship is a grateful response to God's love for us.** The sacrament of Baptism calls all of us to a lifelong vocation of discipleship and stewardship. Bishop Paprocki, as shepherd of our diocese, calls us to cooperate with the Holy Spirit to assist all of us in our journey to become an intentional disciple of Christ. In early 2016, the bishop held a kick-off meeting for all parishes of the diocese to work out a plan for individual parish families to make this a reality and way of life in our parishes, as well as for each of us individually.

The Bishop assigned a director to oversee this program. In addition to priests, deacons and sisters, some 600 lay leaders from the 128 parishes have been identified to help make this a way of life in our parishes. Deanery meetings have been held in our seven Deaneries. Goals for this program have been established. Locally, representatives from both Our Lady of the Holy Spirit and St. Isadore's Churches have been selected to form Stewardship and Discipleship Committees. The Our Lady of the Holy Spirit committee is led by Steve & Ellen Bowman, and the St. Isidore committee is led by Dave & Linda McCabe.

The overall goal is to provide the opportunity for everyone, young and old, to experience a personal relationship with Jesus, and live out our call to be His intentional disciples. Once we experience that relationship and understand the great love He has for us, we will want to return that love by giving of ourselves as He did. In giving of ourselves we become His "stewards". Stewardship is giving of ourselves in terms of time, talent and treasure. We can do that in many ways as outlined in the 4 pillars of stewardship –Hospitality, Prayer, Service, and Formation.

Over the next several months, there will be inserts in the bulletin that will explain in more detail the Stewardship and Discipleship Program and invite parishioners to participate in the many stewardship opportunities offered at our Parishes.

**God Bless You! - The Stewardship and Discipleship Committee**