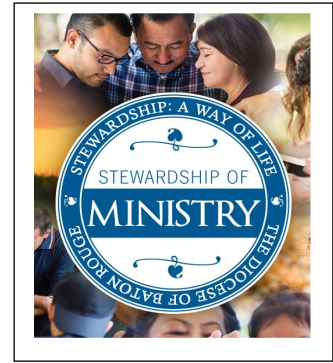


# Stewardship of Ministry 2020



## **A Timeless Example of Faithfulness Informs All We Do**

Soon we will begin the **Total Stewardship** effort focused on service, the Stewardship of Ministry. As the Church traces her roots to the time of the Apostles, we draw strength, comfort and instruction from their example, and the timeless lessons that continue to inform so much of what we do. It is a picture of faithfulness the generations that preceded us offered freely. We will consider the many ways we can invest in ministries that mean a great deal in parish life still, as **Wholly Committed** Catholic parishioners. Please begin praying to consider about your own individual commitment to a ministry in your parish.

## **The Church Is Called to Serve Those in Need**

Our Stewardship of Ministry campaign encourages us to consider the needs of other people—fellow parishioners in our Catholic parish, but also those who live in the surrounding community—each one worthy of our ministry focus. This may be your first opportunity to become more involved. When you offer your good works on Christ’s behalf, you honor the call of baptism that initiated your Catholic journey. Just as others have done for us, we reach out and we touch those in need. Together with the faithful from every corner of our Catholic culture, we reach communities looking for love and hope, **Wholly Committed** to do “everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.”

## **Building a Community of Faith, Ministering Together**

Everyone has received gifts and abilities from God, and we serve best when we minister together as a community of faith, just as the Church has done from the beginning. We know their names, and we cherish their legacy; the first century Church – faithful women and men – led by Peter, Andrew, James, John and their fellow apostles. In God’s grace, they built a community of faith, serving each other and all comers. “All who believed were together and had all things in common”(Acts 2:44). No one escaped their vision, no one was left in need, and everyone embrace the opportunity to serve. To accomplish such a sweeping set of ministry goals required everyone’s sustained commitment. It still does today. Please take time to prayerfully decide how you might choose to minister, **Wholly Committed** to God’s call.

## **The Church is called to serve those in Need**

When you offer your good works on Christ’s behalf, you honor the call of baptism that initiated your Catholic journey. Just as others have done for us, we reach out and we touch those in need. The Church has forever followed the example of Christ and the Apostles, serving others and lovingly investing time and resource to address the longing of the poor and needy. How can any of us truly enjoy the blessings of God and withhold that blessing from others? Giving of ourselves and our time is as vital as sharing our resource. Together with the faithful from every corner of our Catholic culture, we reach communities looking for love and hope, **Wholly Committed** to do “everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.” Please take time to consider how you might serve others through the many ministries of the Cluster.

## **The Church Impact Extend Far Beyond Our Parish**

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus stressed the value of spiritual influence, “You light must shine before other, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father” (Matthew 5:16). His followers took that guidance to heart. “Awe came upon everyone. They ate their meal with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved”. (Acts 2:43a, 46b-47). Needs are great, and so are opportunities for ministry and service. Our reach extends beyond the facilities in which we gather. Consider how you might “do everything in the name of Lord Jesus” by serving I our parish, **Wholly Committed** to God’s work here and now. Others are aware, and your works of service make a real difference in our lives.