



“The fact we are Catholic is not only manifested in the beauty of our churches; it is in our daily living as generous stewards. I invite you to consider the ways in which you make room for God

in your life through your personal, ongoing faith formation; by your active charitable works; and by personal prayer and active participation in Mass.

Be not afraid to give yourself to Christ by being a generous steward. You will not regret it.”

Most Rev. W. Shawn McKnight
Bishop of Jefferson City

PILLARS OF STEWARDSHIP

Hospitality | Prayer | Formation | Service

These pillars invite parishioners to experience, witness and live the stewardship way of life in response to their baptismal call to discipleship. Each baptized person is called to give of time, talent and treasure to strengthen these four pillars that support the parish community — your parish community.



The Mission of the Stewardship Office in the Diocese of Jefferson City is to form active stewards who gratefully respond as Christian disciples by recognizing and receiving God’s gifts and sharing those gifts in love of God and neighbor.



STEWARDSHIP OFFICE
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Stewardship
GROWING OUR FAITH

Frequently Asked Questions

about the shift to a Stewardship Model of tithing

Catholic Stewardship Renewal



**DIOCESE OF
Jefferson City**

As part of the diocesan pastoral plan, *A Steward's Journey: Our Call to Greater Communion*, the Diocese of Jefferson City is moving its parishes into the stewardship model of tithing over the next three years. These FAQs provide information on how our faithful support the work of our diocese and parishes in the stewardship model of tithing and in the transitional phase.

Q. I give to the CSA each year. What do I do with that money now?

Please give any funds usually pledged to the *Catholic Stewardship Appeal* (CSA) directly to your parish by adding that amount to your normal tithe of treasure. If you haven't been pledging to the CSA on a regular basis, prayerfully consider giving a little more to support your parish and diocese.

Q. Why the change?

Our diocesan pastoral plan, *A Steward's Journey: Our Call to Greater Communion*, has three foci, one of which is renewing a spirituality of stewardship in our local Church. Stewardship is **"The grateful response of a Christian disciple who recognizes and receives God's gifts and then shares these gifts out of love with God and neighbor."** Our emphasis on the spirituality of stewardship and every Catholic's call to live as active stewards benefits from a financial giving model which is more simplified, transparent, and rooted in the biblical concept of the *tithe*. Yoking the financial good of the diocese with the good of the parish will result in communities rooted in the spirituality of stewardship.

Q. How is this model more transparent?

Our diocese currently receives financial support for ministry through several sources: a church tax called the *cathedraticum* (assessed to each parish), a direct appeal to the faithful of the diocese (the CSA), and nine *second, or special, collections* (most of which benefit worthy causes outside the diocese). In the stewardship model, we move to a simplified and transparent three-tiered tithing structure. Parishioners are asked to tithe on their income (8% to their parish, 2% to other charities). The parish tithes 10% of its operational income to the diocese, and the diocese tithes to support the work of the wider Church. This method eliminates the *cathedraticum*, the CSA, and six of the nine special collections. The three special collections that will continue are the collection for seminarian formation and priest retirement needs; the Infirm Priest Fund and the Diocesan Mission Collection.

Q. How much is a tithe?

In the Bible, a *tithe* is considered 10% of one's *first fruits* – sacrificially given – in support of the community of faith. As a biblical people, we live this standard as effectively as we are able. The Diocese of Jefferson City humbly asks everyone to strive to live as active stewards by tithing 10% of our first fruits back to God through His Church – 8% to the parish and 2% to other worthwhile charities.

While advocating strongly for the *biblical tithe*, what is most important is the notion of "sacrificial giving." We are all called to work toward a *true tithe* (10%); it may take some people some time to reach that goal.

Q. What should I do if I want to contribute directly to the work of the diocese?

Those who wish to contribute directly to the diocese with special gifts should contact Mr. Jake Seifert, diocesan director of Development, at development@diojeffcity.org.

Q. What's the difference between CSA and CSR?

CSA (*Catholic Stewardship Appeal*) is one of the means by which the diocese receives financial support for its work and ministries. The CSA is a direct appeal *from the diocese* to the faithful of each parish, asking them to give directly to the diocese.

CSR (*Catholic Stewardship Renewal*) is parish-centric and is replacing the CSA. Organized and supported by the diocese with staff and other resources, CSR encourages stewardship through an annual pledge by each parishioner to tithe of their time, talent, and treasure to the parish church. As people pray, participate, and sacrificially give to support their parish, the parish in turn tithes to the diocese to support the ministries of the larger Church.

When all parishes have transitioned to the stewardship model, the diocese will focus on supporting CSR and close CSA.

Q. Why is stewardship so important?

Stewardship is primarily about discipleship. Stewardship is a Catholic's active response to Jesus' call: "Follow me!" We mature as intentional disciples of the Lord by recognizing the many gifts He has given us (our lives, our talents and abilities, our material income, etc.) and we realize the need to give back of ourselves – sacrificially – as He has done for us. We give out of our need to give, because that's what a disciple and steward does!

Q. Isn't stewardship really just about money?

No. Money is involved in a spirituality of stewardship because everything we have – including our money – is a gift from God. Scripture warns us of a "love for money" getting in the way of our ability to respond to God's generosity. As we enter more deeply into a spirituality of stewardship, we discover that being disciples of Jesus helps to put all our treasure, time, and talent in proper perspective: as our means to share God's generous love with others!

Q. How is my sacrificial gift used?

The sacrificial giving of your time, talent, and treasure supports the mission of your parish. Each parish has essential ministries and must maintain facilities and facilitate parish growth. Active stewards who give sacrificially from their calendars (i.e., through service and participation in Mass), their abilities (i.e., through helping build up the community using their unique talents) and their bank accounts (i.e., by financially supporting the parish) help strengthen the parish community, support the diocese (i.e., the "local Church" according to canon law) and the universal Church.

Q. How will this stewardship model help our Church thrive?

To put it simply, we're better together. When all members of the parish strive to live as active stewards and intentional disciples, the parish community is strengthened. This creates stronger and more committed families, an openness to hearing the vocational call of God, a sense of co-responsibility in caring for and advancing the parish, a renewed and welcoming environment for young people, and a commitment to the parish being a center of charity and mercy for all members of the local community. Together, we will more effectively live out the Gospel mandate to love God and neighbor.



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Want to learn more about our diocesan three-year pastoral plan?

Visit our website at diojeffcity.org/pastoral-plan