

Giving should be painful. That's a tough sell to parishioners, isn't it? But we know if we are giving the way God calls us to, our gifts of time and money to do His work should be a bit of a pinch. As religious educators, we know the sacrifices stewardship entails first-hand. Our attitude toward giving, however, need not be pained if we trust that God will always provide from His abundance. There is a freedom in trusting God, a freedom that loosens our grip on our precious commodities because we are confident God will supply more. **Abundance Through Stewardship**, a new pamphlet from Our Sunday Visitor, can help inspire this confidence in your parishioners. It's an excellent tool to spark a consideration of faith and trust, the cornerstones of successful stewardship.

STEWARDSHIP

"Start by doing what is necessary, then do what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

— St. Francis of Assisi
From *Catholic Book of Quotations*,
Leo Knowles (OSV, \$9.95)

● **ALL TOGETHER NOW** Use **Abundance Through Stewardship** to kick off a parishwide "abundance fest" — a day when everyone gives. Daylong events could include a rummage sale, bake sale, performances by musical parishioners, parish cleanup crews, and a running tally of donations made that day.

SHARE YOUR IDEAS

How do you motivate and inspire your parishioners to stewardship? E-mail Beth McNamara at bmcnamara@osv.com with your best tips and most creative advice. Then log on to www.teachingcatholickids.com to see what others have to say.

Order **Abundance Through Stewardship** for just 26 cents a copy! Call 1-800-348-2440, Ext. 3, today!

Call toll-free! Or fax the order form on your Parish Partnership brochure.

PARISH HOW-TO

● **IN GOD WE TRUST** Host a discussion on the relationship between tithing and trust, reading **Matthew 6:25-34**. The pamphlet allows those who attend to take the message home.

● **THE LAND OF PLENTY** Read the pamphlet with your youth group, then try a trust exercise in which one leans back while others catch him. List examples of abundance in their lives and help them identify ways to give sacrificially.

● **FOR ME?** Wrap copies of the pamphlet in boxes and hand them out at a small faith group. Explain that you are giving them the gifts of trust and joy, gifts they'll open again in giving their own gifts to God and their community.

● **THIS WILL ONLY HURT FOR A SECOND** Send the pamphlet home with your religious education students. Ask their families to identify one way that week that they can "give till it hurts," whether it be time, possessions, or money, and suggest praying for greater trust.

TO KNOW MORE

- **What the Church Teaches: Stewardship**, pamphlet (OSV, \$12.95 / 50)
- **Living Catholic Stewardship: Joyful Generosity**, pamphlet (OSV, \$12.95 / 50)
- **Taking Care of God's Gifts, Stewardship: A Way of Life, Grades K-2 and 3-5**, Laurie A. Whitfield with Robert P. Cammarata (OSV, \$2.95)
- **Catholic Stewardship: Sharing God's Gifts**, Colleen Smith (OSV, \$4.95)
- **Why Catholics Don't Give ... and What Can Be Done About It**, Charles E. Zech (OSV, \$19.95)
- **Grace in Action**, stewardship bulletin insert (OSV, call for parish pricing)

Our Sunday Visitor