

## Stewardship Planning Guide 2017

The starting point of Christian stewardship is that everything is a gift from God. In gratitude for God’s generosity, we dedicate a portion of these gifts – our time, talent and treasure (money) – to further God’s kingdom. If we truly believe that God gives us all that we have, gratitude is one response. Trust is another. When we realize that God has provided for us and will continue to do so, we recognize that our real security lies in God. Our God, who has given us all, will take care of our future.

**Principle One: Give back to God, in the spirit of grateful dependence, a portion of everything that our Maker has given us.** In working for the Church, and giving to the church, we often give what is a left-over amount of our time, talent and treasure. This makes this sharing a secondary aspect of our life. With stewardship, we are encouraged to place God, and His Church, first because all we have is a gift from God.

**Principle Two: See that your gift of time, talent and treasure is a sacrifice, that is, an offering that makes holy all the efforts and earnings of the past week, as well as, a donation that seems almost more than you can afford.** In other words, our gifts of time, talent and treasure should have some bite to it, so we are putting God first and trusting in God.

**Principle Three: Look to the Biblical concept of tithing as a barometer, guideline, or norm for estimating and determining the amount you give.** Tithing = 10% of one’s time, talent and treasure. This is a goal to work towards. No one can tell anyone what they must give. Rather, you as individuals and families should prayerfully consider what you need to give according to the blessings that God has bestowed upon you. A current method of calculating the tithes is to shoot for 10% of income divided as follows: 5% for local parish – 1% Diocese (DAA) – 4% for other charities.

**Example:**

Annual Income	parish weekly/annually 5%	Diocese 1%	Other charities 4%
\$40,000	\$38.46/wk	\$2000/yr	\$1600

It is good to take time to prayerfully consider each year the goals you and your family have for faithful stewardship. Couples should take time to seriously discuss this. Parents should talk appropriately with their children how you as a family and how they should sacrifice part of the gifts received from God of TIME – TALENT – TREASURE.

**TIME/TALENT:** What ways have I/we given of our time and talent in service to our parish (and other volunteer activities) this past year? Is God calling me/us to respond in a different way this coming year? [Especially take time to talk about “talents”/gifts that you see in your children and how they can use them to help others.]

**TREASURE:** Start with some math “homework” based on last year’s earnings/giving. Is God calling me/us to greater sacrifice? Remember God is never outdone in generosity! Try to come up with an estimate of giving for the year. Use the suggestions above and the planning guide below as to how you hope to apportion your giving in the coming year.

**[NOTE: this is for your own planning and will not be returned to the parish. Keep it in a handy place (with giving envelopes) to help guide you.**

**Parish Giving: (Helps fund the general operational and ministry costs of the parish)**

**Target Yearly Goal: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Plan of giving: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Weekly      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly      \$Other \_\_\_\_\_

CONSIDER SETTING UP AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWAL (If interested contact the parish office: 712-551-1501 or StMarysChurch@gohitec.com)

**Parish Improvement Fund: (use Improvement Fund envelopes) Target Yearly Total: \_\_\_\_\_**

**DIOCESAN CONTRIBUTION (Through DAA – Diocesan Annual Appeal) Total Yearly Gift: \_\_\_\_\_**

**GIFTS TO OTHER CHARITIES** – there are special envelopes included in your box (Please note if you use ACH giving instead of envelopes) for special collections throughout the year. There are several advantages to contributing to these through your parish.

- The diocese/Bishop’s Conference has vetted these organizations as to being a worthy cause and legitimate use of funds.
- The organizations do not receive your information thus you do not end up on a mailing list
- Please review and decide to which causes you would like to contribute this year. You can pick and choose those most close to your heart.

**BRIAR CLIFF SUNDAY, January 28/29** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Briar Cliff University is the only Catholic university in our Diocese. Current students are relying on the people of this Diocese to make their education possible. You will see the results of a Briar Cliff experience in our community for years to come.

**AID TO WORLD WIDE CHURCHES COLLECTION, March 1<sup>st</sup>** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Takes place on Ash Wednesday. This collection helps Catholic churches struggling to survive in area of the world with persecution or economic difficulties such as Central and Eastern Europe; Latin America; Africa.

**BLACK AND INDIAN MISSIONS & CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS, March 4/5** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Collection goes to support to mission work within the United States.

**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION, March 25/26** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The collection funds six Catholic agencies that work to serve Jesus in the disguise of our suffering brothers & sisters. It allows these agencies to respond to people in great need due to natural disasters, epidemics and extreme poverty.

**HOLY LAND COLLECTION – GOOD FRIDAY, April 14<sup>th</sup>** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Funds go to support Catholic shrines and churches in the Holy Land

**RETIRED & INFIRMED PRIESTS COLLECTION – Easter Sunday, April 15/16** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

100% of all donations stay within the Diocese of Sioux City. Please be generous to those priests as they are the ones who: Baptized our children; married our adult children; given the sacraments to us; challenged us to live the Gospel; been at the bedside of a dying friend or relative; are at the altar every Sunday to bring us Jesus.

**CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN, June 10/11** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

This collection is used in spreading the gospel message by effectively using technology & media.

**PETER’S PENCE COLLECTION, July 1/2** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your donations will support the charitable works of Pope Francis. The Holy Father reaches out to those suffering the effects of war and violence, natural disasters, and religious persecution around the world.

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS, August 26/27** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Aging religious need your help. Thousands of senior sisters, brothers & religious order priests spent years working in Catholic schools, hospitals & agency-often with little pay. Their communities are left without adequate savings for retirement & eldercare. Your gift helps provide prescription medications, nursing care & more.

**WORLD MISSION SUNDAY, October 21/22** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Supports the Mission work of the Church and the men and women dedicated to taking the message of the Gospel to all peoples often living in difficult or life-threatening situations. Through this collection, we play a part in spreading God’s word.

**ST. JOSEPH EDUCATION FUND, November 4/5** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The Saint Joseph Education Society has been supporting the education of clergy in The Diocese of Sioux City for more than 50 years. The effective training of priests, deacons and seminarians is very important so that parish communities can effectively understand the Word of God and the teachings of His Church.

**CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, November 25-26** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

This collection provides funding for education, economic development & housing for low-income families in the United States.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF DIOCESE OF SIOUX CITY – CHRISTMAS** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Offering Hope, Healing and Understanding through counseling and other crisis services.

**TOTAL:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

You may also wish to take time to consider other charities and community causes to which you donate.