

Our Stewardship Council has prepared the handout you received as you entered church today. Would the council members please stand? Karen Chaney is our chair. Tom Hamlett, Pooch Hatcher, Mark Nold and Gary Schrader - Thank you all.

The purpose of the Stewardship Council is to foster the gifts of time, talent and treasure in our parish. Both at St. Munchin and at St. Aloysius, people are very generous to the Catholic Church. So, before anything else, I want to thank you for contributing to the collection, caring for our property, preparing children and adults for the sacraments, helping our youth, assisting with mass, visiting the elderly, serving on committees and everything else you do to make our two communities alive in faith. Thank you. This is a wonderful parish.

There's a difference between stewardship and ownership. If I go away for a few days and give you the keys to my car – This is not likely to happen, but it'll make my point – I am not giving you ownership of my car. I'm giving you stewardship of it. It's still my car, and I want it back. In the Catholic Church, we believe that we don't own anything, not even our cars. God owns everything. We are stewards of what God owns. God has given us time, talent and treasure. But we don't own any of it. We are stewards of it. The time we have is not our time. It is God's. The treasure in our pocket is not our treasure. It is God's. We are supposed to take care of it.

Ministry is how we serve as baptized Christians. Jesus went from baptism into ministry and that's what God calls each of us to do. Today the Stewardship Council is challenging everyone at St. Munchin and St. Aloysius to share your time and talent with the community. I do want to make an appeal about treasure, but we're not doing that today.

Most of you looking at this list know you already give your time and talent. The council wants to thank you for moving from baptism into ministry. If you want to continue what you're doing, check those boxes. If you are not involved yet, please accept this invitation. But it is more than an invitation, it is an expectation that all the baptized will exercise ministry in some way.

The top sheet lists our ministries in alphabetical order. Inside they are grouped by areas: Liturgy and Worship, Parish Leadership, Social Concerns/Outreach, Parish Maintenance, and Religious Education. Some areas are well established, but we need more people, like eucharistic ministers to the sick and elderly, instrumentalists for the nursing homes and prison ministry. Some areas are brand new, like vocations, charitable outreach, the catechumenate team, annulment advocates, bereavement ministry, website maintenance, baptism preparation and youth group. If you think of some things that are not here, please tell us about those. We really want to hear.

I especially want to challenge our youth to stewardship. You are eligible to be a eucharistic minister after you have been confirmed; you are eligible for prison ministry after age 21. There is plenty here you can do if you are younger.

The Stewardship Council will collect these sheets after mass today. If you need more time, take it home but bring it back next weekend. Our Council will then go to work to help you be good stewards of the time and talent God has given you.