

Cover Article
August 24, 2008

SEVEN SIGNS OF A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

- 1 Prayer
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- 3 Accountability
- 4 Outreach
- 5 Renewal and Commitment
- 6 Lay Witness
- 7 Stewardship Committee

One of the highlights of the year is the International Catholic Stewardship Council's (ICSC) annual conference. This group has been meeting for over 25 years to promote the idea of Stewardship as a Way of Life. There are three days of presentations on topics relating to all aspects of discipleship.

One of my favorite features of the ICSC conference is the booths that are set up for the parishes that are award winners. These are the parishes that have integrated Stewardship as a Way of Life in the lives of its parishioners. There is an energy, pride, and love of our Lord that exists in these parishes and its representatives that is infectious. They have effective outreach, numerous ministries, efficient, fairly paid staffs, and the means to pay for their programs. They seem to be the places that Jesus would choose to visit if He were to come tomorrow.

It probably doesn't surprise you to know that this thesis of Seven Signs was presented by a California parish at one of the sessions at the 2003 conference.

The seventh sign of a Stewardship parish is the existence of a Stewardship Committee. We are blessed to have a few very dedicated parishioners who meet periodically to plan our annual Stewardship drive, plan our ministry Fair, prepare and publish our annual report. We are currently working feverishly to accomplish these tasks for our fall drive.

We should have more parishioners who are willing to share their time and talent to assure that we are encouraging the other six components are healthy signs at Transfiguration. Leading our renewal and commitment and insuring accountability are easily understood as duties of a committee such as this. But encouraging our prayer life as a parish and as individuals, promoting hospitality to our guests (both parishioners and visitors), and insuring outreach to our communities are not always thought of as duties of a Stewardship committee. These are areas that a committee can work on throughout the year. I encourage you to prayerfully consider how you will share your talents with Transfiguration, as you return to the Lord a portion of your time, talent, and treasure to build His kingdom here at Transfiguration. Perhaps the Stewardship committee is a way to do that.