

STEWARDSHIP TIME AND TALENT

As we prepare for our renewal of Stewardship commitment last week Father Hamilton spoke about the financial part of Stewardship. This week I am here to speak to you about your Time and Talent commitment.

My name is Eric Buehner. My wife and I have 2 children and we became members of St. Martha 15 years ago. I am also a graduate of St. Martha. I started to get involved in several groups such as parish council, coaching, picnic committee, our archery program and the restructuring of our Stewardship Program. I chose those programs because they matched my talents and skillset and it provided me an opportunity to share those talents and skills with the parish. I see the same passion in many other parishioners. During this time I've also recognized how the current Stewardship time and talent model often fell short in engaging volunteers. People would sign up for committees and may or may not be called. Either because of poor planning or discomfort in asking for help, it seems like the same people are called upon to handle the many volunteer responsibilities. In Matthew Kelley's book "The 4 Signs of a Dynamic Catholic", he found that in most parishes only 7% of the congregation is highly engaged. I believe we are stronger than 7% but not strong enough.

Understandably, many of our parishioners have become cynical about the Time & Talent volunteer form. Equally as serious, new parishioners did not feel fully welcome and missed out on opportunities to get to know their fellow parishioners.

After a lot of discussion and planning, a revamped Stewardship/Resources committee is excited to implement a new approach.

- Our goal is not just to make sure the parish's work gets done, but to ensure our parishioners have the opportunity to share their talents in exchange for time to improve the parish life experience.
- A dedicated committee was formed whose role is to match volunteers with parish organizations needing help, and to schedule them for the activity or event.
- We have updated the time and talent database to make it easier for the resources committee to match talents with needed skills.

In addition, we have also updated the Time and Talent volunteer form to make it easier to navigate.

- The form is color coded and matches the colors of the accompanying Time & Talent Guide.
- The Guide will have more detail about the position and time commitment.

Look for your Stewardship packet arriving in the mail in early June.

When you receive your packet I encourage you to take time that evening to review it.

Please also be sure to update your contact information and career information and consider the 20 hour goal per year for each adult.

Thoughtfully and prayerfully review the guide and select the roles that you truly feel you can commit to. If you have questions about a role, contact the committee chair listed in the guide to find out more about the position.

Thank you.