

Stewardship of Time & Talent

God's people are challenged to name their gifts and share them in justice and love. The Diocesan Stewardship Commission's "Tools that Build Parish Communities" (see above) offers practical suggestions on ways to encourage and promote stewardship of time & talent. Another tool promoting the sharing of time & talent is a Parish Ministry Fair.

Conducting A Ministry Fair

Planning for the Ministry Fair: (three to four months before the event)

1. Establish a Planning Committee to plan and oversee the event
2. Determine the best time to conduct the event (never in the summer months)
3. Decide on a theme for the event and creative ways to present the theme
4. Contact leaders of parish ministries to secure their involvement
5. Develop a brief description of each parish ministry
6. Enlist participants from CCD and Youth Ministry classes

Promoting the Ministry Fair: (six to eight weeks before the event)

1. Encourage students and young adults to design posters and banners about the Fair
2. Insert bulletin announcements about the forthcoming Fair
3. Ministry groups prepare an "I'm Interested" book for their table/booth
4. Ministry groups develop creative displays about their ministry
5. Plan a gift raffle that participants join in when they have a card signed at every ministry table/booth
6. Plan to give an award for the ministry group designing the most creative display

Conducting the Ministry Fair:

1. Students dressed in costume encourage Mass attendees to go to the Fair
2. Refreshments are served at the Fair
3. Face Painting and activities for children should be available
4. A sign-in book should be displayed at the entrance for all attendees to sign and they are given a raffle card to be signed at the tables they visit
5. Ministry groups "talk-up" their work and encourage participants to join them and sign their "I'm Interested" book
6. Award prizes to attendees and at the end of the day for most creative table/booth

After the Ministry Fair:

1. Ministry groups send follow-up cards to those who signed their "I'm Interested" book the week following the Fair
2. Ministry groups welcome new members
3. The Planning Committee begins planning for next year