

**Church of the Nativity
Stewardship Retreat
February 20, 2013
Bulletin Points**

1. **Purpose:** To gather leadership to explore stewardship and responsible giving.
2. **Goal:** To further draw the connection between one's inner spiritual life and the action one takes in the world, set within the purpose of transforming our world into God's dream.
3. Amount of Time required: 5 hours, not including breaks

Major components of the Retreat

1. Gratitude Time Line

- General idea: Participants will create a gratitude time line and see the connection between what they are grateful for and the spiritual formation which enabled them to offer the event/program/people to their own parish and the wider community.
- Action:
 - First they list the actions/events/programs/people they are grateful that they have been able to offer.
 - Next, they list the spiritual formation which was going on in the parish (during the same time periods)
 - Observations and reflections are offered depicting the connection between the inner spiritual life and the outer apostolate life. Major areas of spiritual renewal are noted; movement in spiritual maturity may be observed; connections between deep spiritual feeding and subsequent action are noted.

2. God's dream

- General idea: Connect what we do with the fulfillment of God's dream
- Action:
 - The group identifies what God's dream is for us.
 - Scripture references can be used (Genesis) but generally speaking people are able to articulate what it is that God desires for humankind
 - Key words: Joy, Abundance, Justice, Community
 - The group takes the actions listed on the gratitude time line and puts them in these categories (what action brought joy, abundance,)
 - We reflect with gratitude on how we have participated in bringing about God's dream

3. Discernment of our spiritual gifts

- General idea: Enable participants to list their spiritual gifts and those of the other participants and place them within in of the 4 categories (Joy,

abundance) -- so they can see how their gifts are used to bring in part of God's kingdom

- Action:
 - General conversation about spiritual gifts
 - everyone has them
 - no one has them all
 - all used for God's purposes
 - good to claim your gifts
 - Reflection time -- people sit and reflect upon their own gifts
 - People write their gifts -- read them, reflect on any surprises, connections to God's dream areas
 - People write gifts of others in the room -- same process
4. **Reflection** -- at this point, there is newsprint with the 4 God's dreams categories, with a listing of all the activities the parish offers (for which people are grateful) and below that a listing of the gifts in the room which can be offered to promote/develop/inspire those activities. They have connected their lives (use of spiritual gifts) to particular activities and most important connected all this to the process of bringing about God's dream for our world.
5. **Nuts and Bolts** --
- General idea -- take one item to look at within the above mentioned context.
 - Action:
 - Take a specific project to be working on
 - Reflect on Likes, Wishes, Concerns on that specific topic
 - Pick an item which is most important to the long-term health of the parish
 - Pick an item which is most easily accomplished
 - Create an action plan for this item, which is associated with one of the 4 categories (for instance, if the goal is to increase the youth participation, think in terms of how can the youth experience the joy of God).
6. **Growing Grass** -- a reflective activity, where safe space is created for people to reflect upon what's been "growing inside them" during the retreat day (Grass always grows, even if no one is noticing -- this brings the assumption that something is always growing inside us -- and this is our time to notice and share it, if desired -- any surprises, concerns, items of curiosity, etc.)