
LAY WITNESS PRESENTATION: OUTLINE & GUIDE

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Outline

Introduction - Describe your family, the number of years you have been members of the parish

Call to attention the Liturgical time of year and why it is important to give thanks at this time.

Relate the time to stewardship, properly define Christian stewardship - It is a response we make in gratitude to God for what He has given to us. It is intentional, planned and proportionate giving of our time, talent and treasure. It means giving of the “first fruits,” not from what is left over. Emphasize that it is important to give all three: time, talent and treasure. It is giving to both the parish, the greater Church and to the community.

Inform how you practice stewardship at this time of year and why it is important to you - When did you make a commitment to stewardship as a way of life? How did you feel? Was it step by step or all at once? How has it affected your life? Stress the sense of joy and fulfillment that comes to those who give God the first share of their time, talent and treasure.

Invite fellow parishioners to make a commitment to stewardship as a way of life - For those who have made a commitment to stewardship, reinforce their commitment with “many of you know from your own giving experience that what I have told you is true.” Invite all to join you and your family in making stewardship a way of life in your parish. Ask them to look at what they have been given, and to make a response of gratitude.

Tips for Lay Witness Speakers

Do:

- ☐ Prepare your talk ahead of time
- ☐ Practice and rehearse it so you are comfortable with it. If possible, practice it in the church when only the pastor and members of the Stewardship Committee are there, using the sound system. They can give you positive feedback and help you “tweek” the presentation
- ☐ Ask the person who did the Lay Witness last year to go over it with you. They will have helpful hints that can assist you in making your presentation
- ☐ Make eye contact when making your presentation to connect with your audience
- ☐ Be honest, sincere, enthusiastic and friendly
- ☐ Some people find it easier if the talk is written in prose instead of a more traditional writing style. This gives a great visual indicator to ‘break’ at a particular point and slows down the talk

Don't:

- ☐ Stress church needs or budgets
- ☐ Talk in dollar or time amounts that everyone can give
- ☐ Use threats of possible consequences
- ☐ Suggest that stewardship is an obligation