



Administration/Stewardship Context for Discussion

Essential to the fulfillment of the Church's mission is the preservation, oversight, use, and development of both the physical properties of the Church and its income and other assets (temporal goods).

Topics for discussion may include the fostering and promotion of competent leadership in parishes with respect to each Catholic's role within the Church; management of temporal goods of the Church; and the offering of one's time, talent, and treasure.

Administration Stewardship

Key Elements of the Life of the Church in the Archdiocese of Washington

1. The mission of parish stewardship, as defined by Scripture, is articulated and communicated to parishioners
2. The most knowledgeable people are consulted in making decisions
3. People at various levels in the archdiocese participate in planning and decision-making activities
4. Interactions and working practices between the archdiocese and parishes are defined, communicated, understood and effective
5. Recurring expenses are met in a timely manner without need for serial fundraising or bank loans and purchasing power across archdiocese is utilized to achieve economies of scale
6. Purchases, contracting, and investments are made consistent with Church teaching
7. Has a documented plan for its programs beyond the current year which is communicated to parishes and parishioners
8. Maintains its plants and facilities in good condition and has a plan for future maintenance and contingencies
9. Has facilities that are adequate for the present and future needs of its people and its programs
10. The archdiocesan policies, training, and on-line resources for Pastor and parish advisory councils are known and utilized
11. Parish has active Pastoral and Finance councils which fulfill their responsibilities as outlined in archdiocesan guidelines
12. People are given opportunities to share in leadership responsibilities by being empowered to use their skills and experiences
13. Has sufficient qualified personnel to further the mission and meet legitimate needs of the parish archdiocese
14. Utilizes technology to further the mission of the parish and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its internal administrative and ministerial needs
15. Has written policies and procedures that enable the continuity of the mission of the parish and achievement of goals in the case of unexpected events and turnover in positions
16. Parishes have access to the financial resources they need when undertaking projects such as capital improvements
17. Parishes are assessed fairly, relative to their financial ability to support various initiatives within the archdiocese

Others?

Reflection Questions

1. What are examples of the Church's efforts in this area that are bearing fruit?
2. What are some areas where more might be done to strengthen the work of the Church?
3. What practical suggestions do you have?
4. What are the four key elements you identify as priorities?