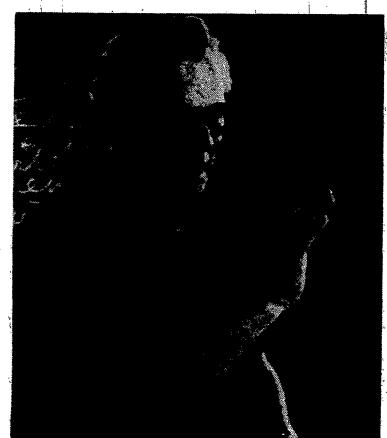
Stewardship: Bringi





At Immaculate Conception, Ithaca



At St. Ambrose Church

Across the diocese, an extraordinary new program is being offered by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan to help parishes mobilize their human resources to meet their various needs.

The program is called Stewardship, and in the words of the bishop, "Simply put, it is a means of motivating greater participation in all phases of parish life."

"Christian Stewardship," the bishop noted, " seeks to promote a return to God of some portion of the abilities He has given us, Each of us is a steward of three "t"s—"time, talent and treasure. Some persons have more of one, less of another; not everyone, for instance, has treasure, but may be able to share time or talent. To the extent that this sharing can be channeled to and through the parish, experience has shown that both parish and diocese will benefit."

To introduce this new program, in the parishes, the diocese has developed a Slide. Show presentation, which is available to all parish groups, and which not only outlines the mechanics of how the program works, but also the benefits parishes can expect to derive by joining with the program.

The Slide Show presentation is available simply by calling the Stewardship Office at (716) 328-3210.

The Slide Show emphasizes that Stewardship is a spiritual way of life, that we are but stewards of the gifts that God has given us. It also stresses the need we have to band together to meet the pressing needs of the community.

The success of embarking on such a program is extraordinary. Already in the Diocese of Rochester a number of parishes have accepted Bishop Hogan's invitation to work with the program and have reported tremendous gains in parishioner involvement.

One of the pilot programs in the diocese was at St. Salome's Church, under the direction of Father Conrad Sundholm. The response to Stewardship, Father Sundholm has remarked, "was one of the most heartwarming of my priestly career." He has also taken the notion of Stewardship himself one step further, and has agreed to, coordinate a Stewardship speaker's bureau, "because I believe in it."

Concurrently with Father Sundholm's program, Father James Marvin at St Amborse Church, also engaged in the Stewardship program. It was Father Marvin's intention to stress that "We — are concerned about developing among our people the idea of giving not only money but also time and talent. We want to get more persons interested in what the parish offers them and in what they can offer the parish."

The Stewardship program has also made a tremendous impact on St. Charles Borromeg Church. The committment of Father John L. Hedges and his associate

How Stewardship Helps

- 1. Develops a more Christian perspective about sharing among parishioners.
- 2. Allows parishes to minimize funding efforts and to accentuate program efforts.
- 3. Offers opportunity for parishioners to become better acquainted with each other through involvement.
- 4. Keeps parishioners more familiar with parish programs, diodesan programs, services and needs through annual reviews.
- 5. Systematically allows for identifying and involving new parishioners.
- 6. Serves as a recurring sampling of parishioners' attitudes.
- 7. Allows otherwise hidden or unused lay leadership to surface for involvement in Parish Council or committee roles
- 8. Broadens the level of parishioner involvement.
- 9. Establishes fund-raising on a more systematic and business-like basis
- 10. Develops positive giving habits and increases annual parish income