

How Can Parishes Participate

As word of this program spreads through the diocese, more and more people are asking questions in their parishes. A typical sampling of those questions follows.

Q. How can we reserve the new Slide Show presentation for one of our upcoming meetings?

A. Simply call the Stewardship Office at (716) 328-3210 between now and May 15. An official representative of that office will attend your meeting. The Slide Show presentation and the discussion period which follows usually last about 45 minutes.

Q. Will the parish be required to provide a projector for the Slide Show?

A. Yes. Any Carosel Slide Projector should work. Also, a cassette tape player must be provided. A public address system is necessary if a large audience is expected (more than 50 people). The diocesan representative will deliver the slides in a tray and the audio cassette. He will also be available for discussion and to answer any questions. (If you do not have a slide projector, no doubt someone in your parish will loan you one.)

Q. What if our parish has already decided on the Stewardship Program this fall?

A. Be sure your decision is based on a "Total Commitment" to the program by all your parish leadership — pastor, priests, sisters and Parish council, if you expect to be successful.

Q. Must every parish participate?

A. No. It is not a mandate. Bishop Hogan, however, is encouraging every parish to do so.

Q. How does the diocese propose to help our parish if we participate?

A. The diocese has engaged professional counsel to design the program, prepare special leader manuals, prepare secretary administrative manuals, design and write the necessary brochures and special bulletins and to conduct special training workshops for parish leadership. Also the special Slide Show will be made available to use at worker meetings and to show your parish congregations, if desired. These services will be provided at no cost to the parish.

Q. Will there be any cost to our parish to participate?

A. Each parish will be responsible to provide its own secretarial needs, office, postage and the required printing supplies (for the brochures, commitment cards, worker cards, etc.) Estimated cost will vary from about \$.50 per family for larger parishes to about \$1.50 per family for smaller parishes, the variance depending primarily on volunteer or paid secretarial support.

Q. How much can our parish expect to increase our Sunday collection if we participate?

A. This naturally will depend on the parish. Some parishes are probably realizing 90 per cent of their potential now, while others might only be realizing 50 per cent. However, the Stewardship office will give you an "Estimate of Potential" if requested. A copy recently distributed of your "Parish Operational Profile" is on file at the Pastoral Center and an evaluation of this report should be sufficient to provide this estimate. However, requests must allow three to four weeks for the analysis and evaluation.

