
SOME DO'S AND DON'TS FOR LAY WITNESS TALKS

Do...

(If time permits and if any of these fit into your talk)

- ◆ Explain that stewardship means giving of the “first fruits,” not what is left over.
- ◆ Talk about the personal need of each Christian to give back in gratitude.
- ◆ Say, “Many of you know from your own giving experience that what I have told you is true.” (Acknowledging that you are not in this alone.)
- ◆ Stress the sense of joy and fulfillment that comes to those who give God the first share of their time, talent and treasure as a way of expressing their gratitude and trust in God.
- ◆ Talk about intentional, planned and proportionate giving. Explain what it means to you to give from your substance.
- ◆ Emphasize that it is important to give all three “time, talent and treasure.”
- ◆ Explain that stewardship involves not only church (parish and diocese); it also includes the community and the universal Church.
- ◆ Have the pastor review your talk before you present it.

Don't...

- ◆ Talk in bargaining terms (e.g. “I gave this much time or treasure and God gave me this in return”)
- ◆ Stress church needs or budgets.
- ◆ Talk in dollar or time amounts: “If everyone could give \$10 a week” ... “we need \$2 more a week” ... “give our fair share” ... “if everyone could give 3 hours per week.”
- ◆ Use threats of possible consequences stemming from the failure to give: “We won't be able to heat or air-condition the church” ... “We'll have to close the school.”
- ◆ Suggest that parish stewardship is an obligation.