

Catechizing for a Stewardship Way of Life
Lynn Sale (lynn.sale@verizon.net)
Regional Stewardship Gathering 07
Embassy Suites, Charleston, SC

- *“The aim of all catechesis is mature adult discipleship.”*
- *Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us*
- *“Catechesis is the process of transmitting the Gospel, as the Christian community has received it, understands it, celebrates it, lives it, and communicates it in many ways.”*
- *General Directory for Catechesis*
- *“Stewardship is an inner attitude which with faith and gratitude recognizes that everything is a gift from God and with openness of heart willingly gives a portion of those gifts to others, especially the poor, for building up the Church and making this a better world.”*
- *Joseph M. Champlin*
- *“Stewardship, and sacrificial giving which is one form of stewardship, thus has more to do with a spiritual approach than with a practical program. It touches one’s interior self and inner attitude. It should deeply affect the manner in which we live and ideally become a way of life for us.”*
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- *Joseph M. Champlin*
- *“The promotion of the practice of stewardship is important for the mission of the Church and for the spiritual well-being of each individual Christian. Everyone benefits from the sacrificial gift one makes of his time, talent and treasure. ”*
- *His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI*

The Evangelization Cycle

- *The Call ... to follow Christ*
- *The Response ... to live a stewardship way of life*
- *The Challenge ... to embrace our role as evangelizers as an essential part of the mission of the church.*

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Is Stewardship Taught or Caught?

“When do God’s sons and daughters realize that everything they have comes from God, belongs to God, and that they are stewards and managers of things that don’t belong to them... that God intended that they use these gifts for the benefit of others? It dawns on some people early in life, some of their deathbed, and others miss it entirely. If and when it does come, it usually doesn’t come through a long reasoning process. It’s one of those deep down truths that simply dawns on a person in a flash of insight. It is in the end a grace of God. To catch that insight and to live by it is called stewardship.”

- Bishop Ken Untener

How Do We Catechize for Stewardship Way of Life?

- *Study the concept of stewardship to understand how it relates to evangelization and catechesis.*
- *Speak the language of Stewardship - Time, Talent and Treasure.*
- *Be as a resource for the Stewardship Committee.*
- *Assist in the development of parish stewardship programs and presentations.*
- *Keep the message of stewardship and evangelization alive all year long – not a program with a beginning and an end – integral part of catechetical process.*
- *Incorporate stewardship into religious education events for all ages.*
- *Promote household discussions of stewardship.*
- *Provide opportunities to critically discern elements of our culture.*
- *Encourage gift discernment.*
- *Have an attitude of gratitude - Thank people for all they do in serving.*
- *Encourage others by example.*
- *Pray that people will embrace stewardship as a way of life.*

Change the World

"I am convinced that if we can make stewardship part of our faith life we can truly change the world. We can make this a much better place in which to live—not just for us, but for everyone. I am convinced of this because I am convinced that it will attack the selfishness that besets all of us. It turns the mine to ours; it turns self to others. It turns us from just loving ourselves to loving others as Jesus loves them."

- Bishop John J. McRaith