

**ST. MONICA CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**EDMOND, OK**

**A UNIQUE STEWARDSHIP PARISH**

We are servants to whom the Master has temporarily entrusted some of his goods. Through our administration of these goods we provide for our own needs and gain for the Master a suitable return on his investment in us (Lk 19:12-26; Mt 25:14-30). Faithful stewardship requires total investment of self for the benefit of the Master and for the achievement of his objectives, for which we will one day have to give account (Lk 12:42-48).

**INDIVIDUALLY:** The total investment of self expresses itself in all of life, but especially in acts of charity and in our involvement with our families, Church, job and other pursuits for which God has given us talent and interest.

- **Time and Talent:** An acceptable return to the Lord from our time and talent (1 Peter 5:10-11) includes Sunday and Holy Day Mass attendance and involvement on average for at least one hour per week in at least one service role ministry, committee, charitable outreach or entity in the parish or larger community.
- **Financially:** 10% of our adjusted gross income is considered an acceptable return to the Lord from our financial resources (Dt 14:22-29; Lv 27:32-33). This includes 8% to St. Monica parish, 1% to the Archdiocese Development Fund, and 1% to charities of choice (e.g., Catholic Charities, United Way, second collections, Cancer Society, etc...or more to St. Monica).
- **Special Cases:** It is understood that special circumstances can arise. However, since this is a matter of our administration of the Master's goods (rather than a question of generosity with our surplus), the decision to return a lesser amount to the Master should not be taken lightly (Lk 16:9-13). Dual religion households often split their stewardship between the two churches.

**COMMUNALLY:** God has gathered in our parish persons with a wide range of talents and interests. As faithful stewards, they have placed time, talent and resources at our disposal for the accomplishment of God's objectives in our local community and throughout the world. One day we as a parish will have to give account (2 Cor 12:12-26; Rm 12:6-17; Mt 21:33-41). This stewardship expresses itself in every sector of parish life. It is evident not only in acts of charity, but also in administrative decision-making and accountability, in the use of volunteers and in the very limited fund-raising activities on parish grounds (other than the general collection at weekend Mass).

- **Administration:** All parish committees are stewardship committees, each focusing on one facet of stewardship in parish life. Stewardship of financial resources is preached only once per year. Sometimes the different facets of stewardship are addressed on separate weekends. Pledges are taken for stewardship of material resources for the following year, though there is no "stewardship police" to hold people to their pledges. Parishioners sign-up annually for their choice of service roles in the parish. The heads of each parish ministry or entity then

follows up on these offers of service to the parish. Volunteer fairs are held to connect parishioners with service opportunities in the local community, as well as in the parish.

- **Accountability:** All persons involved in parish administration and on parish committees and entities are accountable to the parish as a whole. The parishioners are provided with full disclosure regarding parish finances by means of quarterly and annual financial reports. Policy decisions are made by the pastor, who first receives input from the entire parish by means of surveys and/or the advice of the Pastoral Council. In all parish committees and entities, decision-making is by means of consensus.

### PARISH FINANCES

The parish is funded primarily by means of the weekly collection, 10% of which is given directly to the poor. With the exception of Second Collections mandated by the Archdiocese—the Archdiocese Development Fund and Catholics Charities fund drives, very little fund raising is permitted by any person or group, either from within the parish or any of its entities, nor from outside the parish. All parish entities, including the Women’s Society, Knights of Columbus and parish youth groups may submit budget requests to the Finance Committee. Since the Knights of Columbus is not, strictly speaking, a parish entity, they are permitted to collect dues. Activities and items can be made available to parishioners for purchase at cost, but not as fund-raisers (for instance, parish festival T-shirts). One consequence of unique stewardship is that the parish foregoes many potential sources of revenue. On the other hand, since parishioners know that they will not be approached unexpectedly for additional money through multiple fund raising schemes, they can give their full tithe in the weekly collection. The ability to plan one’s tithe as part of one’s personal budget is an important element in the proper stewardship of material resources.

- **10% to the Poor:** The parish tithes 10% of every collection to the poor, 1/5 to local charities, 1/5 for loans/direct assistance, 1/5 to Third World charities, 1/5 to our St. Vincent de Paul group and 1/5 to our sister Parish, Sacred Heart in Oklahoma City. This is in addition to what individual parishioners choose to give to outside entities by means of our Second Collection envelopes, and in the Archdiocese Development Fund and Catholic Charities fund drives. St. Monica has adopted a sister parish in Kenya, which we help support financially.
- **90% for Parish Use:** All parish obligations are funded from the 90% of the collection earmarked for parish use. The budget takes into account all parish financial obligations.

### PARISH STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

The parish is staffed by volunteers to the greatest possible degree. It is a major responsibility of the parish to seek out, train and use volunteers in every sector of parish life. This enables parishioners to exercise their stewardship of time and talent. Paid staff who are also parishioners have the same stewardship of time and talent obligations as any other parishioner.

- **Sign-up:** New parishioners are given the opportunity to sign up for specific ministries and committees at the time they register in the parish and at the New Parishioner Meeting, which they are expected to attend. All parishioners are given the opportunity to choose and/or change their service roles at the annual stewardship of time and talent weekend. The head of each parish ministry, committee or entity is expected to follow up on every offer of service to the parish and the larger community.

- ***Input:*** All parishioners are expected to take an active interest in the life of the parish and to provide input (solicited or not) in matters where they believe they have insight. Parish leadership will actively solicit parishioner input by means of surveys and other forms of consultation. The parishioners themselves are expected to take the initiative in offering input that they believe will be helpful, even when such has not explicitly been solicited by parish leadership. All parishioners should have ownership for the parish and parish leadership should remain open to the voice of the larger parish.

### **SUMMARY**

God is our Master. We are servants whom God has bought with the precious blood of his Son and to whom he has given a share in the spread of the Gospel and the Building of his Kingdom. God has given us everything necessary for the work he has entrusted to us and he expects a suitable return on his investment, for which we will one day have to give account. As a Unique Stewardship Parish, we embrace our status as God's servants and we seek to be faithful administrators of our God-given time, talent and treasure. We strive to see to it that all parish policies and structures conform to the reality of our servant hood before the Lord and we seek to be faithful stewards both individually and collectively in every area of life. God has been so good to us and what we seek above all is to be faithful in return.

Edited 9/06