

Sample Stewardship Witness Talk
St. Barbara, Woburn * 2006 given by Loretta Pioch

Hi! My name is Loretta Pioch, and I am a parishioner who has become involved in some of the ministries here at St. Barbara's. I am married with 3 children, ages 2, 5, and 7. I am here to tell you about how my stewardship in the Church, especially at St. Barbara's Parish, has helped me deepen and fulfill my relationship with God.

When we hear "stewardship" we think, "the sharing of Time, Talent and Treasure," which it is. But more importantly, it is the sharing of who I am and of the gifts that God has given me. And by this sharing, yes, I fulfill the responsibilities I received at Baptism. But even better, I strengthen my relationship with God and with those around me, finding a joy that the world cannot give.

I know all the good reasons to put this off until next year:

Maybe you're still in school and you don't have enough time.

Maybe you're just out of school starting a new life and you don't have enough time.

Maybe you have two or more jobs just to meet the bills and you don't have any time.

Maybe you're newly married and they are so many new responsibilities in your life.

Maybe you just had your first baby, or the second, or the third, and you really don't have enough time.

Maybe your children are in a hundred different activities, and you don't remember what time it is.

Maybe your children are grown and you have taken on other responsibilities as well.

I often thought that I would be less busy and more organized "later," so that I will then have more time to be a good steward. But I have found that the complete opposite is true. Most importantly, I have found that when I dedicate time and effort to the things of God, one of the many gifts I receive from Him is a multiplication of my time. God cannot be outdone in generosity.

The other gifts I receive from God in return include (but are not limited to!) being a better wife, mother, co-worker, neighbor and friend because as I grow deeper in my faith by responding to my baptismal call, it is only inevitable that God will strengthen and improve me and my relationships.

Another joyful aspect of my stewardship is how it has transformed St. Barbara's from a building into my family. By my reaching out to serve, I now have many brothers and sisters who serve and pray and care for me as if I was their own blood.

So I am not here to let you know that St. Barbara needs more CCD teachers, more Eucharistic ministers or more ushers (which we do!). I am here to call you to a deeper fulfillment in your relationship with God and with your family at St. Barbara's by sharing who you are and the gifts God has given you.

God cannot be outdone in generosity.

Thank you.