

HOSPITALITY, EVANGELIZATION, AND OUTREACH

Communities known for the vitality of their faith and for the quality of their service to people in need invariably inspire others to participate in their ministries and to be generous in their financial support. With this in mind, parishes and dioceses that seek to promote gifts of time, talent, and treasure to support the mission and ministries of the Church should first demonstrate that they are welcoming communities with a commitment to preaching the Gospel and serving the needs of others.

Parishes and dioceses should not make commitments to hospitality, evangelization, and outreach simply because this will enhance their ability to recruit volunteers or raise money. These activities should be the natural outgrowth of a parish's or diocese's mission. However, dioceses and parishes that seek to increase participation or to raise additional funds would do well to look to the effectiveness of their efforts to welcome, evangelize, and serve.

As an integral part of their commitment to stewardship as a way of life, parish and diocesan leaders should initiate and implement stewardship projects unrelated to the Church itself, e.g., conservation of natural resources, environmental improvements, advocacy projects to benefit the poor and needy, custody of family values, etc. In addition, as a witness to the value of generous giving that is not based on obligation or need, dioceses and parishes should try to make donations of time, talent, and treasure to people and causes (in their local communities and throughout the world) that are over and above their participation in assessments and second collections.