STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE
Parishes and dioceses that wish to encourage financial gifts for ongoing programs, capital needs, and endowment should look first to steps 1 to 5 above.

• Has the parish or diocese effectively witnessed to the value of stewardship as a way of life?

• Is the leadership fully committed to stewardship and development?

• Are individuals and families in this diocese or parish actively involved in ministries of hospitality, evangelization, and service?

• How effective are parish or diocesan communications?

• And, finally, are gifts of time and talent really welcome, or does the parish or diocese unwittingly send a message that it only cares about money?

The parish or diocese that can honestly evaluate itself on these questions with a positive result will be in an excellent position to encourage gifts of treasure to support the mission and ministries of the Church. Building on this kind of solid foundation, the diocese or parish should employ fund-raising methods that respect and reinforce stewardship themes of gratitude, accountability, generosity, and returning to the Lord with increase.

Within a total stewardship context, parishes and dioceses should not hesitate to use the best available ethically sound fund-raising practices to ask the Catholic people to make financial contributions that are planned, proportionate, and sacrificial. Provided that the basic approach is consistent with the theology and practice of stewardship, the principles and techniques of professional fund raising can be extremely helpful to the overall stewardship and development efforts of the parish or diocese.