

## Benefits of an Effective Stewardship Program

1. Provides repeated amount of annual, unrestricted capital
2. Establishes habits and patterns of giving
3. Teaches future generations to give
4. Deepens the relationship between parishioners and their Church
5. Instills sense of ownership
6. Produces giving that leads to special, major and planned gifts
7. Allows reiteration of the mission of the parish each year
8. Compels the parish to account for its stewardship on a continuing annual basis
9. Frees up precious volunteer time
10. Creates resources for new programs of service and outreach
11. Offers compelling testimony to visitors
12. Aligns parish priorities and activities more closely with the New Testament
13. Transforms parishioners into advocates of sacrificial giving
14. Relieves priest of onerous fund raising event management

## The Services of Stewardship Advocates

Campaign Planning Studies  
Capital Campaigns  
The Sacrament of Stewardship  
Annual Giving and Stewardship  
Special Campaigns  
Major Gifts  
Strategic Planning  
Endowments  
Board Development  
The Parish Philanthropic Audit  
Board Retreats  
Leadership Coaching  
Evangelization and Church Growth  
Volunteer Management  
The Parish Stewardship Weekend

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**“Well done good and faithful servant.”**

## The Parish Stewardship Weekend



**Stewardship Advocates**

*Helping Parishes to Fulfill Their Mission*



Fr. Anthony Scott is a priest of 32 years' experience including 18 years of full-time national and international fund raising experience in the Orthodox milieu. He is professionally trained in all aspects of *nonprofit institutional development*, having completed over 30 courses of study. In the past six years he served 62 Orthodox institutions in all jurisdictions—Metropolises, Dioceses, Parishes, Seminaries, Missions, Schools, Organizations, Humanitarian Agencies, numerous SCOBA-sponsored Charities, Foundations, Trusts, etc.

He is the editor of Good and Faithful Servant: Stewardship in the Orthodox Church, published by SVS Press in 2003. He is the publisher of "Orthodox Philanthropy", an occasional newsletter on best practices of Orthodox parish development and fund raising.

Fr. Scott holds an undergraduate degree in English Literature from the University of California at Berkeley and a Master of Divinity degree from St. Vladimir's Seminary where he also served as Chief Advancement Officer for 12 years. During that time he directed a \$22 million capital campaign. All told, Fr. Scott has raised \$70-\$80 million in the Church.

He is the author of numerous articles on stewardship, strategic planning, board development, annual giving, etc. The story of his pilgrimage into Orthodoxy was published by Light and Life Press in the book, Journeys to Orthodoxy, ed. Thomas Doulis.



## The Parish Stewardship Weekend

This service challenges the moribund stewardship effort of most parishes. Three days are dedicated to improving stewardship in the parish. Multiple teaching strategies are utilized to produce optimum results.

### Maximum Impact

The service is intensive, spanning three days. The intent is to achieve maximum benefit by exposing as many parishioners and key leaders as possible to the theology of stewardship and effective methods of implementing stewardship principles and practices into parish life. Parishes in which sacrificial giving is practiced as a community value inevitably demonstrate a spiritual vitality, a focus on New Testament-type activities (mission, education, worship, fellowship, service to the poor and needy, evangelization, etc.) and a strong sense of purpose that remains elusive to parishes where nominal giving prevails.

### The Service

- 1) Several weeks before the Parish Stewardship Weekend begins, parish documentation related to fund raising, budgeting, stewardship and information management is sent to the consultant. This information is carefully reviewed and analyzed. The consultant, well before coming to the parish, also provides the leadership with written guidelines and recommendations for achieving a successful weekend.
- 2) The consultant arrives early on a Friday. The first day is dedicated to research. The consultant interviews the priest and 5-6 key parishioners on the subject of stewardship. He also examines the software and information management procedures of the volunteers or office staff who accept responsibility for this function in the parish. Friday evening a focus group comprised of 8-12 parishioners and the priest engage in discussion on the challenges and

opportunities before the parish vis-à-vis stewardship.

- 3) Saturday is allocated to a full day interactive seminar open to the entire parish. A special recruitment effort is recommended to achieve the largest possible attendance. The content of the PowerPoint seminar (typically 10 AM to 3 PM or 4 PM) is a presentation on the sacrament of stewardship, an analysis of present parish fund raising practices, a review of the theory and methodology of professional nonprofit institutional development *as translated into the ecclesiology of the Orthodox Church*, an explanation of various tools available for improving the practice of stewardship in the parish and finally, role-playing exercises designed to introduce parishioners to the most effective and dignified means of spreading the good news of joyful sacrificial giving—the one-on-one conversation.
- 4) On Sunday, with the blessing of the bishop and the invitation of the priest, Fr. Anthony will assist with the service and deliver the sermon at the Liturgy.
- 5) Fr. Anthony then returns to his office to write the "Philanthropic Report" of his findings based upon the documentation, interviews, focus group and interactive seminar held within of the parish. The report includes recommendations on how best to move forward with implementing stewardship principles and effective methodology within the parish.

### Continuing Support

For 30 days following the weekend event, Fr. Anthony remains available for phone, fax and email support to assist the parish with the implementation of the principles and methods of effective stewardship.