



## B. Testimonials & Ministry Fairs

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Testimonials are a good way to have your parishioners share with one another how important stewardship and gift planning is to the community. Ministry fairs are a good way to get new parishioners involved, or welcome people into working with your group or committee.

### Testimonials

Select three to five individuals who recently have become more active in the parish, attended an event or class that changed their mind or habits of faith, or someone who has increased their offertory gift. Use a one or two sentence testimonial of faith. Have them finish these sentences:

The most important God-given gift in my life is . . .

This parish is important to me because . . .

I recently <NAME GIFT INCREASE, ACTIVITY, OR EVENT> because . . .

It is important that these individuals are not the expected name or face from the parish. It should be someone relatively unknown. This will make it more persuasive.

Plan on using these testimonials in many places: bulletin messages, quotations in letters and web messages, and presentations to parish organizations.

### Ministry Fairs

Sponsor periodic **ministry fairs** or an open house to familiarize people with activities and programs at the parish. Make it easy, set convenient times, and consider linking the event with other mandatory meeting, such as parent-teacher conferences at school.

Many examples of successful ministry fairs are available at the International Catholic Stewardship Council website: [www.catholicstewardship.com](http://www.catholicstewardship.com). The Office of Stewardship for the Archdiocese is a member and our staff can assist you with securing more information and helpful materials.

Consider a website posting or social media message on the parish website as one way to get the word out about opportunities for people to share their talents. It isn't always easy to get people to come out for a fair or meeting. Make website opportunities simple with direct contact information for how to get involved.