



ORGANIZE YOUR PRAYER TEAM

PRAYER TEAM ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

(This meeting can be scheduled anytime before Leadership Team Report Meeting #1.)

You have enlisted a Prayer Team. Now you must instruct them as to the specific responsibilities that will facilitate your prayer plan.

The work of the Prayer Team falls into three basic areas:

1. Praying daily for the campaign and campaign leadership
2. Assisting with the campaign prayer and intercessions and weekend Masses
3. Facilitating the selected prayer feature

Preparation:

Prepare copies of the following for each member of your Prayer Team.

- ☐ Copy of the prayer/program calendar
- ☐ Leadership Team list
- ☐ List of Leadership Team members responsible for meetings or program features
- ☐ Copy of the general program timeline

Suggested Agenda:

Prayer

Introduction

- ☐ Hand out prayer calendars and timelines.
- ☐ Describe the various program features.
- ☐ Explain that the job of the Prayer Team is to pray for the campaign and campaign leadership on a daily basis.
- ☐ Describe the way the calendar is laid out.
 - Highlight program features
 - The name of a Leadership Team member for each day
- ☐ Hand out the list of Leadership Team members responsible for meetings or program features (describe list).

Assign Leadership Team

- ☐ Give each person (include yourself) an equal number of Leaders to pray for.
- ☐ Ask each member to pray for his or her assignments each day.
- ☐ Ask team members to make occasional contact with their assigned Leadership Team members to assure them of the individual and team prayer support and to ask if the person has specific requests.



Review Organization Descriptions

- ☐ Give each team member a copy of the description of each Leader's responsibility (from the Leadership Team section of the *Campaign Manual*).
- ☐ Review each position so that all members understand the responsibilities.

Prayer Feature

- ☐ Give each member a copy of the instructions and support material for the selected prayer feature.
- ☐ Discuss the process for implementation and make assignments if you are dividing responsibilities. (You may choose to simply do this yourself.)

Daily Prayer Guide

- ☐ Hand out and review daily prayer guide.

Set Meeting Schedule

- ☐ Determine what additional meetings will be necessary to implement your plans and maintain continuity.

Close With Prayer



Prayer Team Features:

Prayer Calendar. Develop a calendar of prayer including each person on the staff and Leadership Team. Enlist people to pray.

Day of Prayer for One Another. Each household in church receives the name of another household and is asked to pray for them on a specific day. Cards can be distributed by mail or at Mass.

Days of Prayer and Fasting. Each member is encouraged to give up lunch on one day of the week and pray in place of eating. A simple prayer guide can be inserted in Sunday bulletin each week and distributed at Mass. If a Wednesday or Thursday is chosen, the community can gather for sharing and support that evening.

Devotional Guide. A booklet is given to each household to encourage daily prayer. Children's drawings and thoughts from youth can be included. The length will vary according to the number of devotionals received.

Prayer Vigil. Ask members to come to church and pray for one hour during the prescribed time. Vigils may last 6, 12 or 24 hours.

Prayer Marathon. Ask members to pray for a thirty minute period at home during a prescribed period covering the 12 or 24 hours set aside for the marathon.

Prayer Labyrinth or Prayer Walk. Each member is encouraged to come to the church for a walk of prayer with prescribed stations and directed prayers.

Prayer Reminders. Provide a Bible bookmark, refrigerator magnet, sticker like a gold star on cell phone or watch face encouraging prayer. Ask the youth to make prayer bracelets from embroidery thread for everyone.

Campaign Prayer. Write a prayer for your campaign to be used at Mass or on a Bible bookmark.

Choose an option or two. Clear these with Father. If you cannot decide today, set a time for your next meeting.



INSPIRATION PHASE LITURGY PLANNER

(_dates_) INFORMATION WEEKEND(s)

- Distribution of Information Packets
- Bishop's Campaign DVD (Optional)
- Campaign Chairs share
- Parish DVD (Optional)

(_dates_) WEEKEND 1: Theme: Introduction to Stewardship – *Call to Prayer*

- Homily on Theology of Stewardship
- Parish Video
- Music: Stewardship focused
 - Mass Setting: _____
 - Opening Hymn: _____
 - Psalm: _____
 - Offertory: _____
 - Communion Hymn: _____
 - Closing Hymn: _____
- Witness Talk: _____
- Children's Activity: * _____
- Youth Activity: ** _____

(_dates_) WEEKEND 2: Theme: Stewardship of Prayer- *What does God desire for us?*

- Homily on Stewardship of Prayer
- Music: Stewardship & Prayer focused
 - Mass Setting: _____
 - Opening Hymn: _____
 - Psalm: _____
 - Offertory: _____
 - Communion Hymn: _____
 - Closing Hymn: _____
- Witness Talk: _____
- Children's Activity: * _____
- Youth Activity: ** _____



(_dates_) **WEEKEND 3: Stewardship of Sharing - *What sacrifice can I return to the Lord?***

- Homily with Sharing emphasis
- Music: Stewardship & Sharing focused
 - Mass Setting: _____
 - Opening Hymn: _____
 - Psalm: _____
 - Offertory: _____
 - Communion Hymn: _____
 - Closing Hymn: _____
- Witness Talk: _____
- Children's Activity: * _____
- Youth Activity: ** _____

(_dates_) **WEEKEND 4: SPECIAL EVENT/COMMITMENT WEEKEND**
Stewardship Commitment – *What is God asking me to do?*

- Homily with Commitment emphasis
- Music: Stewardship & Commitment focused
 - Mass Setting: _____
 - Opening Hymn: _____
 - Psalm: _____
 - Offertory: _____
 - Communion Hymn: _____
 - Closing Hymn: _____
- Witness Talk: _____
- Children's Activity: * _____
- Youth Activity: ** _____

(_dates_) **CELEBRATION WEEKEND**

- Homily with Celebration emphasis
- Music: Reflective on accomplishments focused
- Witness Talk: _____
- Children's Activity: * _____
- Youth Activity: ** _____

* _____ add your plan here; send to Stewardship Coordinator

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IDEAS

Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened for you
Matt 7:7 (NAB)

An organized prayer plan has great impact upon your capital stewardship campaign. God's plans for your parish and your parishioners will become clear when the parish and individuals pray, *"Lord, what do You want to do through me, to accomplish Your will for my parish and (arch)diocese?"*

- ☐ **Enlist a Prayer Team.** Select individuals who have demonstrated a profound and prevailing interest in prayer and liturgy. Select a group that widely represents the community. You are encouraged to enlist as many people as possible to pray for this campaign effort and for the generous response of God's people.
- ☐ **Develop a prayer calendar.** Study the campaign calendar to concentrate on the various activities and emphases. Highlight the Leadership Team members that will have particular responsibilities with each respective activity. Possibly, Leadership Team members could be assigned a day of the week in order to have special prayer.
- ☐ **Coordinate with parish liturgy director/team and choirs.** There are many stewardship themes that can be drawn from the prayers, readings and music of the liturgy. The prayer/liturgy team should meet with the pastor or liturgy director or liturgy team or choirs to make sure that the prayers, readings, intercessions, and music in the liturgy are unified and related.
- ☐ **Campaign prayer and intercessions at the liturgy.** A capital stewardship campaign prayer should be created and used at Mass as early as possible. It may be used at the beginning of mass, after the intercessions or after communion. Intercessions encouraging open hearts, the seeking of God's will, an embrace of the campaign goals, and a generous response on the part of all would be suitable for the liturgy.
- ☐ **Pray for Focus on Prayer intentions.** The Contact Team, in their first phone call, is taking prayer intentions from fellow parishioners. All these prayer intentions should be gathered by the Prayer Team. These requests should be prayed for by the group, generally at Mass, and at the various prayer events sponsored by the Prayer Team.
- ☐ **Plan a unique prayer event.** Within the two-week period prior to the Commitment/Special Event Weekend, schedule an event that could include as many parishioners as possible: a period of prayer for one-another; day(s) of prayer, adoration and fasting; a novena; or 6, 12, 24 hour vigil.



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- **Encourage intense prayer in Inspiration Phase.** In the Inspiration Phase, parishioners are asked to seek God's guidance for their participation in the campaign vision. Encourage Sunday and weekday liturgy attendance, liturgy of the hours, adoration, rosary, novenas, and prayer forms the parishioners are familiar with.

Prayer and Prayer Activity Suggestions:

1. Use the Lord's Prayer at least once a day
2. Pope John Paul II recently added a new set of meditations (on the "Mysteries of Light") to the three traditional meditations for the Rosary (Joyful Mysteries, Sorrowful Mysteries, and Glorious Mysteries). Consider specific times, say 15 minutes prior to mass when you come together and pray the Rosary. Other Marian prayers may be used, including the Angelus, usually prayed at noon but suggested at any time of day, the Memorare and Hail, Holy Queen. Other prayers can be found in any traditional Catholic prayer book. (Make sure the book includes the new Mysteries of Light).
3. Use traditional prayer times, such as morning, noon and evening as well as meal times. Most Catholic prayer books and missalettes contain suggested prayers for these times. You, as a Prayer Team, are encouraged to add to these traditional prayers specific intentions (for the pastor, the parish, the success of the campaign, the sick, for peace, etc.)
4. Prayer and stewardship emphases need to be anchored in the Eucharist. Eucharist comes from the Greek word "to give thanks." The Eucharist is also understood as a "sacrifice" (giving back to God). We encourage the Prayer Team to attend Mass daily as much as possible and to dedicate your participation in the Saturday or Sunday Eucharist to the success of the campaign for the sake of the ministries of the parish and diocese.
5. We encourage the Prayer Team to set an example in prayer to the rest of the parish. Do all you can to encourage prayer on the part of all parishioners individually and as a parish. Everyone can pray regardless of his or her time, talents or treasure. Parishioners exercise stewardship responsibilities as "stewards of the mysteries of God" and sharers of faith (evangelists).
6. Look at days of prayer, tying the Prayer Team to the first call made by the Contact Team, prayer vigils and all other means to encourage prayer.
7. Your consultant will be available to make further suggestions.



GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPING A PRAYER CALENDAR

The development of a prayer calendar is the first and most important step in a successful prayer effort. The calendar will provide a road map for the entire program.

STEP ONE: Find the block calendar in the Calendar section of your *Task Management Guide*. Take the calendar out of the notebook so that it can be easily referenced. Turn to the Leadership Team section of your *Campaign Manual*. Study each position on the Leadership Team as it relates to the meetings, activities, and features on the calendar. List on the calendar the names of Leaders who will be responsible for meetings and features that appear on the calendar. List them according to the day or timeframe of the meeting or feature.

STEP TWO: Assign the name of a member of the Leadership Team to each day of the calendar. Repeat this until every day between Leadership Team Report Meeting #1 and the Special Event has been assigned a name.

STEP THREE: On the Fridays before Weekend I, II, III, and IV, list the name of your Pastor. He will be asked to deliver important homilies on those weekends.

STEP FOUR: Highlight the major events of the campaign. They could include: Information Activities, calls to parish households, the Poster Festival, reservation calls for Advance Commitment Gatherings, the Special Event, and Celebration Mass.

STEP FIVE: Review the “Prayer Features” option (Appendix H). Select the option that you would like to use and the appropriate date for this feature. Use the instructions for the selected feature as a guide. Place all related dates for preparation, promotion, and mailing on your calendar. It will be up to you to calendar the dates necessary to facilitate the plan you choose.

NOTE: *You may substitute your own idea for a prayer feature.*

STEP SIX: You will be asked to enlist a small team to support the prayer effort. Set a date for the organizational meeting of your Prayer Team (prior to Leadership Team Report Meeting #1). When you talk to individuals about serving on the Prayer Team, you will want to give them the date for this organizational meeting. During the organizational meeting, you will calendar dates for subsequent meetings.



PRAYER TEAM DAILY PRAYER GUIDE

Today is a new day. We are one day closer to the time when every person in our parish will be asked to make a three-year financial commitment. Our desire is that this decision be spiritually motivated. To this end, much will be happening today that will have impact on that objective. Your faithful prayer can make a difference.

Review Your Program/Prayer Calendar

Pray for events or meetings.

Pray for the preparation for upcoming events or meetings.

Pray for leadership listed as being responsible for any meetings listed today.

Pray for Those Enlisting Others

Pray for those doing enlistment:

That they would be faithful to the task

That they would present the request skillfully

Pray for those being asked to help:

That they would take time to listen

That they would say "yes"

Pray for Your Assigned Leaders

That they would be attentive to their task

That they would be successful in their task

That God would bless them and meet their daily needs

Pray for the Leadership Team Member for the Day

(If not already one of your assigned names)

Pray for the Parish

That they would be receptive to the campaign

That they would be willing to pray for God's will

That they would find a way to give with equal sacrifice

Pray, "Lord, what do You want to do- through me - to fulfill Your will for our parish and arch/diocese?"

NOTE: Find ways to encourage those Leadership Team members assigned to you. Call them occasionally. Let them know of your prayers. Ask for specific requests.



SAMPLE INTERCESSIONS FOR MASSES AND PRAYER SERVICES

Unity/Strength - That God may bless the Church of **(Name)**, Arch/Bishop **(Insert Name)** , the priests, deacons and religious, and all the people of Christ, as we work to strengthen our parishes now and for the future,

We pray to the Lord.

Beginning - That God will bless our **(Campaign Name)** Leaders with success as they mobilize this effort in our parish and call forth the participation of us all,

We pray to the Lord.

Strength - That God's call through **(Campaign Name)** Stewardship Campaign and our generous response will help us to grow stronger as a community of faith,

We pray to the Lord.

Future Strength - That the **(Campaign Name)** Stewardship Campaign will strengthen our parish and the Church of **(Name)** today and in the future,

We pray to the Lord.

Strength - That through **(Campaign Name)** Stewardship Campaign our community may experience deeper levels of unity, purpose, and involvement,

We pray to the Lord.

Goals - That the **(Campaign Name)** Stewardship Campaign will achieve its goals of strengthening our parish, providing us with spiritual leaders, increasing our outreach and faith-education effectiveness, and providing for our priests in their retirement,

We pray to the Lord.

Discipleship - That through **(Campaign Name)** Stewardship Campaign we may hear God's call to grow as faith-filled, committed and courageous disciples,

We pray to the Lord.

Build Church - That through **(Campaign Name)** Stewardship Campaign we may hear God's call to build His Church in our corner of the world,



We pray to the Lord.

Our Mission - That through **(Campaign Name)** Stewardship Campaign we may be strengthened as a community of faith teaching the Gospel, worshipping in the Eucharist and sacraments and serving the poor and needy among us,

We pray to the Lord.

Living Stewardship - That through **(Campaign Name)** Stewardship Campaign we may open our eyes to see our gifts, rejoice in those gifts, tend those gifts well, and put our gifts at the service of the Lord,

We pray to the Lord.

Living Stewardship - That through **(Campaign Name)** Stewardship Campaign God will open our eyes to see that we are His disciples called to prayer, service and ministry, and generous sharing,

We pray to the Lord.

Living Stewardship - That through **(Campaign Name)** Stewardship Campaign we experience the joy of being able to live, receive and share,

We pray to the Lord.

Giving Thanks - That through **(Campaign Name)** Stewardship Campaign we may start to take time each day to open our eyes, see a few blessings we have not seen before and give thanks,

We pray to the Lord.

Looking to Past - That through **(Campaign Name)** Stewardship Campaign we may look to the faith of our parents and grandparents who built our parishes and respond in a way that would make them proud,

We pray to the Lord.

Looking to Future - That through **(Campaign Name)** Stewardship Campaign we may build a strong parish community for our children and grandchildren,

We pray to the Lord.



Saying “Yes” - That through **(Campaign Name)** Stewardship Campaign we may say “yes” when we are called to serve,

We pray to the Lord.

Full Participation - That each and every one of our parishioners may be involved in the **(Campaign Name)** Stewardship Campaign and the strengthening of our faith community,

We pray to the Lord.

Prayer - That as we begin our **(Campaign Name)** Stewardship Campaign we may take seriously the call to deepening prayer and to seeking God’s will for our lives,

We pray to the Lord.

Prayer - That through **(Campaign Name)** Stewardship Campaign and our prayer, we may more and more seek after God’s will for our lives and our parish,

We pray to the Lord.

Service - That God may bless our **(Campaign Name)** Stewardship Campaign as they seek to involve more and more parishioners and as they seek to build their teams,

We pray to the Lord.

Service - That through **(Campaign Name)** Stewardship Campaign we may take seriously the call to commit ourselves to service and ministry in our parish family,

We pray to the Lord.

Service - That through **(Campaign Name)** Stewardship Campaign we may say “yes” when we are called to serve,

We pray to the Lord.

Financial Sharing - That through **(Campaign Name)** Stewardship Campaign, we may in serious ways, commit our resources to the Lord and this community that it may be strengthened for today and for tomorrow,

We pray to the Lord.



Financial Sharing - That through *(Campaign Name)* Stewardship Campaign we may open our hearts, respond generously and be ever more committed to the work God has given us to do in our corner of the world,

We pray to the Lord.

Financial Sharing - That through *(Campaign Name)* Stewardship Campaign we experience the joy of being able to live, receive and share,

We pray to the Lord.

Closing - That we may be sincerely grateful to all who served in the *(Campaign Name)* Stewardship Campaign and to all who committed themselves in prayer, service and financial sharing,

We pray to the Lord.

Continued Living in Stewardship - That the spirit of appreciation, rejoicing and generous sharing may continue to grow in this parish family as a result of *(Campaign Name)* and the living of stewardship,

We pray to the Lord.



Prayer Team

The Prayer Team has one of the most important responsibilities in the campaign. You are to pray for the campaign, its leaders, its activities and the parish as a whole. You are also encouraged to enlist as many people as possible to pray for the campaign. After reading your Workbook, find a time to meet as a Prayer Team and plan your prayer and activities.

Here are some suggestions for prayer and prayer activities.

1. Use the Lord's Prayer at least once a day
2. Pope John Paul II recently added a new set of meditations (on the "Mysteries of Light") to the three traditional meditations for the Rosary (Joyful Mysteries, Sorrowful Mysteries, and Glorious Mysteries). Consider specific times, say 15 minutes prior to mass when you come together and pray the Rosary. Other Marian prayers may be used, including the Angelus, usually prayed at noon but suggested at any time of day, the Memorare and Hail, Holy Queen. Other prayers can be found in any traditional Catholic prayer book. (Make sure the book includes the new Mysteries of Light).
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