



Igniting the Flame



The Stewardship Calling *Youth Stewardship Elements of* *the Effective Church Model*

“For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required.”

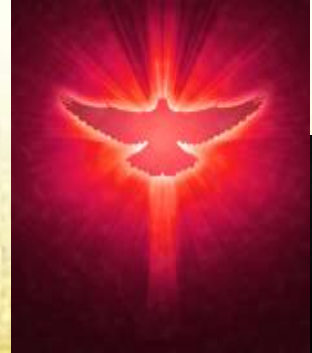
Luke 12:48

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Youth Stewardship



**“Train up a child in
the way he should
go, and when he is
old he will not
depart from it”**

(Proverbs 22:6)



**How are we doing
at preparing for
ourselves:**

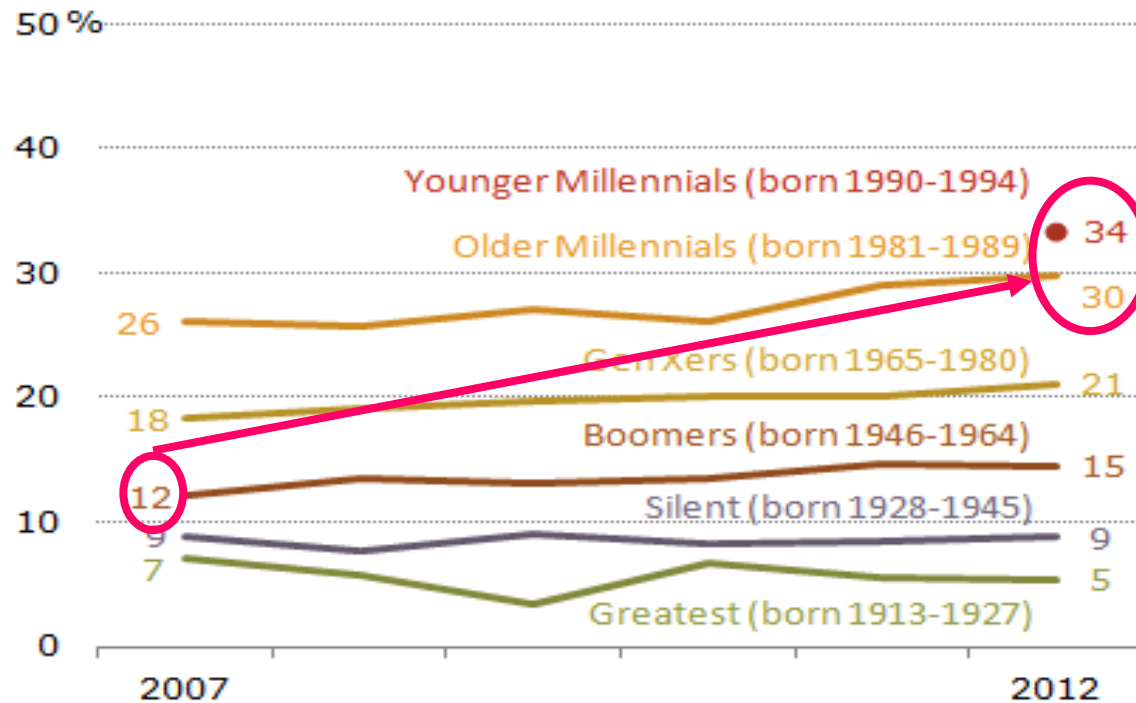
**“A
GOOD ACCOUNT
BEFORE THE
AWESOME
JUDGMENT SEAT
OF CHRIST”**



We Can “Kiss Our Youth Goodbye”

Recent Trends in Affiliation, by Generation

% of each age cohort that is unaffiliated



Source: Aggregated data from surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, 2007-2012.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

~ Millennials (aged 18-29) are over **2.5 times** more likely than their adult parents to be unaffiliated with the Church²

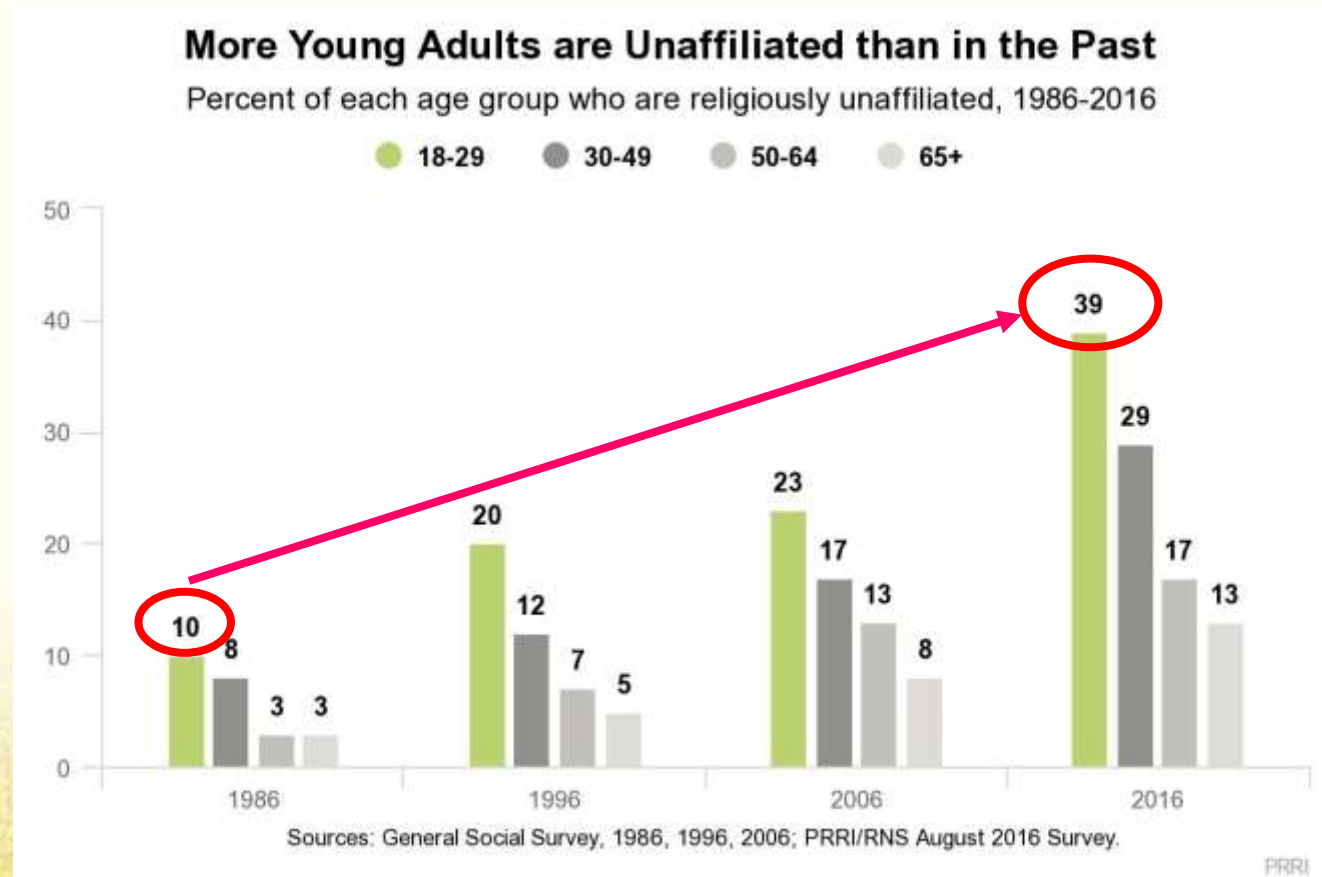
² Religion in the Millennial Generation (2010) and U.S. Religious Landscape Survey (2007), Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life of the Pew Research Center.



We Can “Kiss Our Youth Goodbye”

~ The nonprofit, nonpartisan Public Religion Research Institute data is worse reporting

39% Millennial youth are “**NONEs**”





We Can “Kiss Our Youth Goodbye”¹

~ 73% of Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) College Chapters have 10 or fewer members

¹ **2015** Orthodox Christian Fellowship in the United States (Stage II): The Study of the Student Leaders in the Local OCF Chapters – Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America



Step # 9 of 15 Culture of True Stewardship Practices



9. Youth Stewardship

The science shows that the weak understanding and practice of stewardship among youth and emerging adults is the result of the lack of effective stewardship teaching and practices by adults/parents



Youth Stewardship



- What have you taught your children about the stewardship of God's gifts?
- What have you modeled for your children regarding your personal stewardship
- Avoid the “Dollar Club” mentality (\$1.00 in the tray in 1955 = \$8.38 in 2017)
- (10/10/80 Rule) First 10% of income is your tithe; the next 10% is saved for retirement and you live on the remaining 80%
- What do millennials and younger think of when you mention stewardship?





Youth Stewardship



- ~ If you do not have a youth stewardship program that teaches true stewardship, you have determined your Parish's unfortunate future
- ~ The Science of Generosity Studies remind us that it is critical to teach youth that stewardship over their gifts from God is a cradle to grave responsibility



Youth Stewardship



- **There must be a separate Youth Stewardship program in the Parish**
 - ~ Different messages and solicitations change depending on their age
 - ~ Use understandable examples/messages
 - ~ Include ALL youth in annual Parish Stewardship Campaign (youth offer their own separate stewardship pledge)
 - ~ Youth stewardship pledge must also include a pledge of time and talents and not just treasures
 - ~ Monthly stewardship messaging is important (in Sunday school, in church and at home)



Youth Stewardship



- **There must be a separate Youth Stewardship program in the Parish**
 - Sponsor many different service opportunities (including mission trips)
 - Use creative processes to help youth start to discern their gifts and stewardship callings
 - Send monthly materials home for parents to reinforce the teaching and messaging in the Sunday School/Parish
 - Recognize youth who practice stewardship in the Parish bulletins and other media and in church (have them offer testimonials in church)



Youth Stewardship



- **There must be a separate Youth Stewardship program in the Parish**
 - ~ Have older youth mentor younger youth on good stewardship behaviors and practices
 - ~ Offer a wide array of stewardship opportunities for your youth to allow them to use their different gifts
 - ~ **TEACH THE TITHE**
 - ~ Teach 10/10/80 Rule (invest the 1st 10% of income in stewardship, the 2nd 10% in savings for your future and retirement, and live on the remaining 80%)



Step # 7 of 7 Engaged Disciple Practices



7. Youth Discipleship

The science shows that the weak understanding and practice of the faith among youth and emerging adults is the result of the lack of effective spiritual education teaching and practices by adults/parents



#7 Engaged Disciples Practices



Spiritual education

- A disciple requires education
 - It took the Apostles 3 full years of one on one education with the Lord, and even then they didn't get it
- The National Study of Youth & Religion proved that the shallowness of the faith understood and practiced by youth and emerging adults is the direct reflection of a shallow faith passed on by their parents



Spiritual Education



- **Your Parish must create programs to train parents on how to:**
 - **Follow up and reinforce what their children are being taught in Sunday School and in the Homily**
 - **Discuss with their children what their faith means to them and how they live it in their daily lives**
 - **Engage in dialogues (not monologues) on contemporary moral issues with their children**
 - **Provide useful and effective spiritual education resources for their children**



Youth Discipleship Provocative Question



- **The average American family in 2012 spent approximately \$671 per child - per year on just sports training and costs (Forbes)**
 - **21% of parents spent more than \$1,000 per child**
- **Activity Hero estimates that the average American family currently spends about \$2,400 per child - per year on enrichment support**
- **How much have you spent on spiritual enrichment support?**

Youth Discipleship Provocative Question



Why are we so willing to enrich the educational, athletic and artistic development of our youth/emerging adults, but NOT as willing to spend the money to invest in their more important spiritual health by funding a full time church youth director?



1 Fundamental Rule and 1 Critical Question



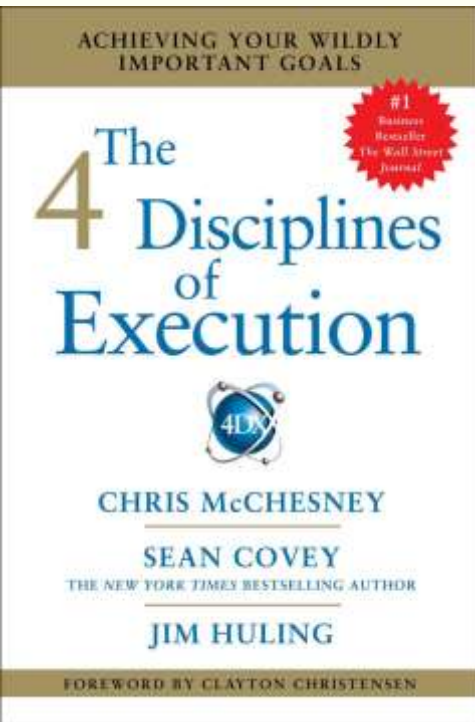
- ~ “You cannot master what you do not measure.”**
- ~ How are you measuring the effectiveness or results of all of your youth programs?**



A Great Process for Effective Execution and Leadership



The 4 Disciplines of Execution



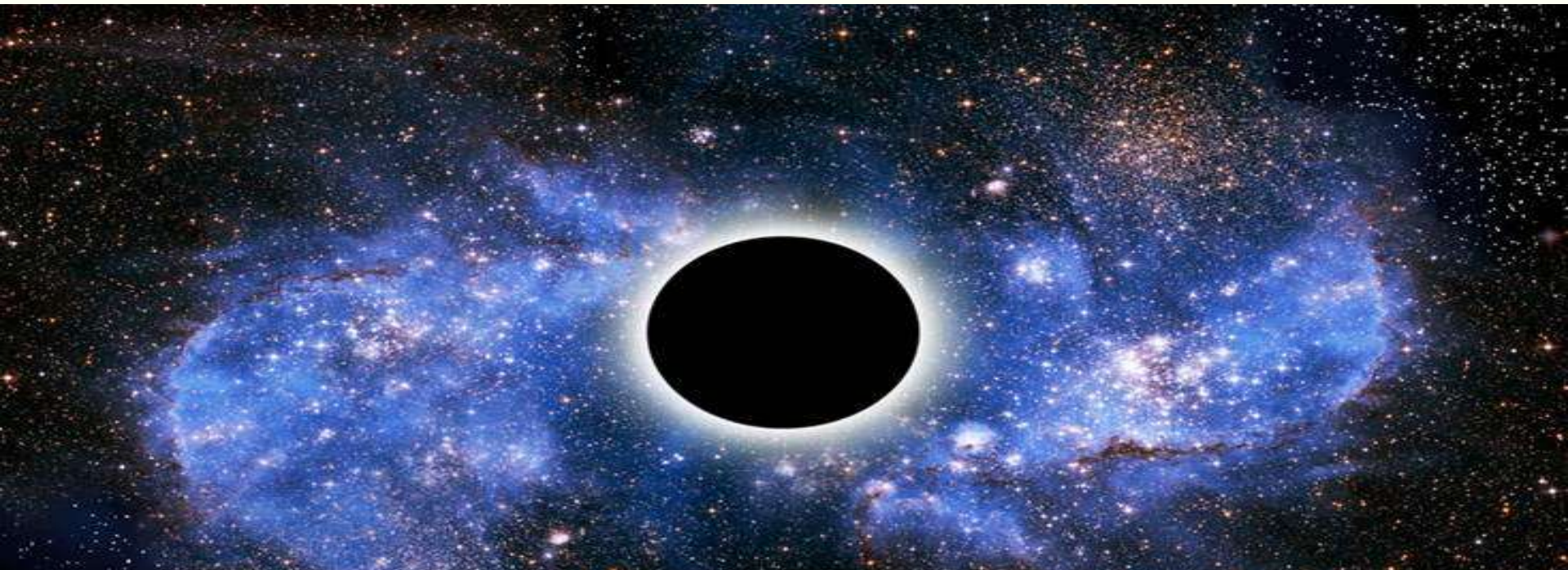
1. Determine your WIG(s)
(Wildly Important Goals)
2. Act on Lead Measures
3. Create a compelling scoreboard
4. Create a cadence of accountability

<http://the4disciplinesofexecution.com/>

NOTE: Some adaptation may be required to apply certain of these proven principles in a church or non-profit environment



How Is Our World Changing?



We are living in exponential times...

... the speed of change is unimaginable and accelerating

'The following is based on the pioneering YouTube video “Did You Know?” (with certain updated statistics).

Did You Know? is licensed by Karl Fisch, Scott McLeod, and XPLANE under a Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial Share-Alike license. You are free to copy, distribute, remix and transmit the presentation as long as you give proper attribution to the original creators and share the resulting work under the same license. You may not use Did You Know? for commercial purposes without permission from the creators. (Selected statistics have been updated, as much as reasonably possible, from available sources.)

Years it took to reach 50 million users:

Telephone - 75 years



Radio - 38 years



TV - 13 years



Internet - 4 years



Google Plus - 88 days



Angry Birds - 35 days



Pokémon GO - 19 days



60 hours of video are
uploaded to  every minute

1 hour of video is uploaded to
 every second



If Facebook were a country . . .



. . . it would be the
2nd largest country
in the world

. . . behind only China.

Slightly larger than
India and 5.5 times
bigger than the U.S.

~ 97% of American adults text.



~ Text messages have a 98% open rate versus only 20% for email.

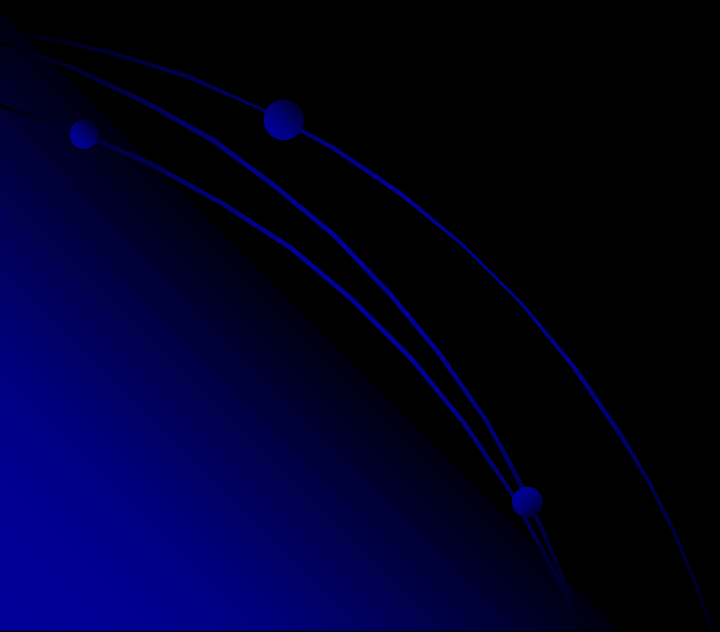
~ 95% of all text messages are read in under 3 minutes.



1 out of 8 couples married in
the U.S. in 2005 . . .
. . .met online

By 2013, 1 out of 3
couples in the U.S.
met online

Our youth and emerging
adults are living in
exponential times...





What Is The Biggest Challenge Facing Your Parish?



$$\Delta S = S_f - S_i = \int \frac{dq_{rev}}{T}$$

$$\Delta S = \frac{q_{rev}}{T}$$

- Entropy
- Everything in the universe eventually moves from order to disorder (*entropy* measures that change)
- If you don't make positive changes you will get negative changes



**“Leaders of a Church
will either be risk
takers, caretakers or
undertakers.”**



**Pastor Rick
Warren**



Selected Youth Stewardship Resources



**Stewardship
Calling**



Youth Stewardship Resources



Check out the following youth resources and adapt your ministries accordingly:

(1) The National Study of Youth and Religion information can be found here:

<http://youthandreligion.nd.edu/>

(2) "Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers" that can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRCaQlr9ooU>





Youth Stewardship Resources

Check out the following selected youth church stewardship resources:

- 1. Orthodox Church in America “Giving Children The Chance To Give”:**

<https://oca.org/parish-ministry/stewardeducation/giving-children-the-chance-to-give>

- 2. Roman Catholic Diocese of Toledo:**

www.catholic-doc.org/stewardship/Caring-Sharing.pdf



Youth Stewardship Resources



Check out the following selected youth church stewardship resources:

3. Texas Methodist Foundation Youth Stewardship Principles:

www.numf.org/file_download/5fafc09c-83f3-4ace-98e4-cfc7382e7a3

4. United Methodist Church 12-month Stewardship

Program: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/a-twelve-month-plan-for-stewardship-in-the-local-church>



ANCIENT FAITH RADIO

Bringing the Ancient Christian Faith to the Modern World

Ancient Faith Ministries

BILL MARIANES

REVITALIZE STEWARDSHIP IN
YOUR PARISH AND PERSONAL LIFE

A STEWARDSHIP CALLING



Ancient Faith
PODCASTS

Youth Stewardship with special guest Steve Christoforou

<http://stewardshipcalling.com/internet-radio/>

Wednesday
May 1, 2019



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Ancient Faith
PODCASTS

The Keys to Stewardship for Youth/Emerging Adults – Stewardship Calling 5th Sunday on Ancient Faith Radio

**Youth and Emerging
Adults Programs –
Part 1 = 4/30/17
Part 2 = 7/30/17**

<http://stewardshipcalling.com/internet-radio/>



Science of Generosity Studies

<https://generosityresearch.nd.edu/>



UNIVERSITY of NOTRE DAME

COLLEGE of ARTS and LETTERS



SCIENCE of GENEROSITY

exploring an essential human virtue

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Generosity, Catholicism, Islam

Current studies of generosity come from many different and often disconnected disciplines and focus on various terms, such as philanthropy, volunteerism and altruism. The Science of Generosity initiative aims to bring together diverse approaches in order to create a field for the study of generosity in all its forms.

Generosity in the News

15 March

Wisconsin Public Radio: Just How Generous Are Americans Really?

22 February

"American Generosity Who Gives and Why"

+ More News



Why the Science of Generosity?



Generosity & Attachment



Science of Generosity Studies



5 Big Summary Ideas From The Science of Generosity Studies





Science of Generosity Studies



The research shows:

- 1. Each person usually decides whether or not they will be generous, and a giver, at a fairly early age**
- 2. That generosity decision forms their adult practices**
- 3. Reinforced by years of generosity, it becomes a habit, and being a good steward is cemented in their adult behaviors and DNA**



Science of Generosity Studies



The research shows:

4. People who give a lot of time and money had parents who did the same things
5. Our own stewardship bad habits and lack of education is being replicated in our youth and emerging adults



Science of Generosity Studies



The Science Of Generosity Studies Identified 6 Basic Conclusions





Science of Generosity Studies



Conclusion #1 (Cognitive Decision):

1. After thoughtful reflection, people form an existential opinion about themselves and their generosity at a fairly early age
2. It's shaped initially by their parents and the behavior of other adults important to them
3. If they don't decide to be generous when young, a parish can help people confront the key question:
“What kind of person do I want to be?”

Are you generous?

**Have you taught
generosity?**





Science of Generosity Studies



Conclusion #2 (Routinization of Giving):

- 1. After they form a personal generosity opinion, people look for easy and routine ways to be generous**
- 2. Parishes must make sure to have easy electronic and other routine giving options**
- 3. Parishes should have a standard donor giving timetable (campaign) and process (including your youth)**

**Does your Parish
facilitate easy giving?**





Science of Generosity Studies

Conclusion #3 (Culture of Generosity):

1. People model the behavior of their peers and those around them
2. A Parish should create and communicate a culture of generosity, and social networks that support generosity, for members to see themselves as a part of that generous culture
3. “There are no lone givers” - peoples’ giving is affected by who they know and how generous they are



Science of Generosity Studies



Conclusion #3 (Culture of Generosity):

4. Encourage creative ways for your youth to decide to become generous
5. Get generous givers to talk constructively (not brag) about the joy their giving brings them
6. Encourage (do not shame) people to be generous in a variety of creative ways

**Has your Parish
created a culture of
generosity and a
social network to
promote it, including
your youth?**





Science of Generosity Studies

Conclusion #4 (Church Giving Facilitation):

1. Regular church goers generally give more money and are more generous
2. Generosity is improved when a church makes a religious call to give
3. You have to ask and remind - not constantly, but consistently
4. Talking about needs or paying bills does NOT work at creating true and sustainable stewardship behavior -
“people give to mission and vision”

**Has your Parish
created regular
processes to share its
vision and life
changing ministries
and then solicit
generosity?**





Science of Generosity Studies



Conclusion #5 (Parents Teaching):

1. Parents must proactively and explicitly teach their children about giving generously
2. Kids watch and mimic adults' visible behavior
3. Parent's generosity is usually invisible to their children, so you need to make it visible and talk about it to show them how you live, and how they should live

**Has your Parish
created a social
network of generosity,
including your youth?**





Science of Generosity Studies



Conclusion #6 (Attitude of Abundance):

1. Parishes need to cultivate an attitude of abundance and gratitude, not scarcity, since most of us have plenty in our households
2. Attitudes of abundance have been shown psychologically and biologically to cause people to reframe their reality and allows people to become generous

**Has your Parish
communicated an
attitude of abundance
(or have you been
communicating
scarcity and crisis)?**





*You have
now been
called as
one of the
70
Disciples*

Luke 10:1

