





Igniting the Flame

A Culture of True Christian Stewardship and Generosity

(*Part 3*)

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

Luke 12:48

Bill Marianes

Bill@stewardshipcalling.com



Helping people and parishes discover and live their stewardship callings so that they may have a good account before the awesome judgment seat of Christ

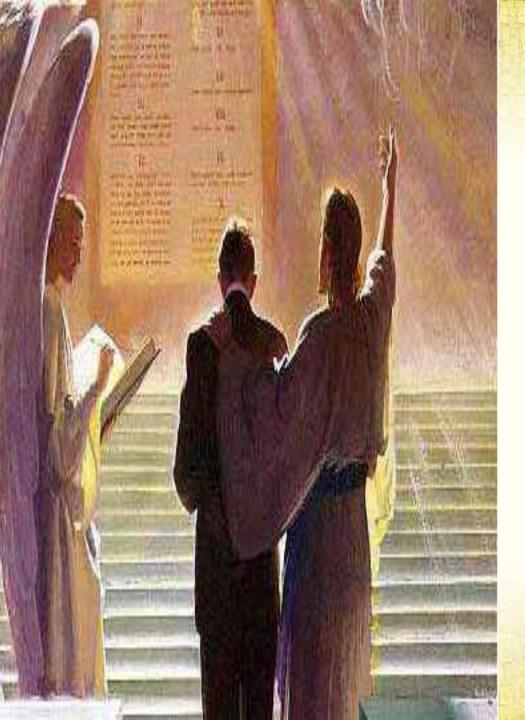


Helping transform and improve Orthodox Church parishes, organizations, and ministries in order to strengthen the Body of Christ.

www.orthodoxministry.org/

WHY Are You Here?





"That the end of our lives may be Christian, without pain, blameless and peaceful, and for a **GOOD ACCOUNT BEFORE THE AWESOME** JUDGMENT SEAT **OF CHRIST"**

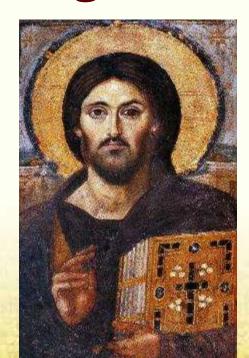
> 2 Corinthians 5:10 Orthodox Divine Liturgy



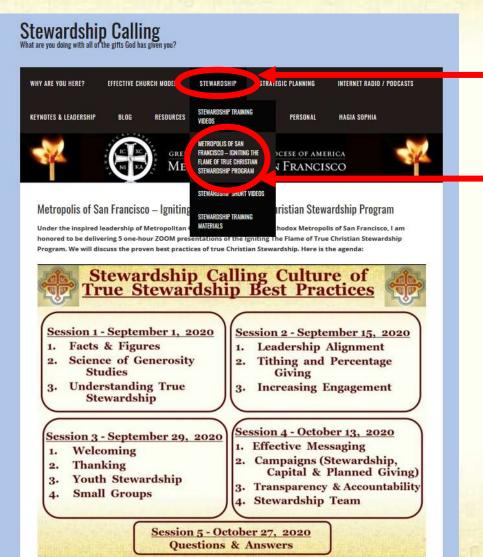
Christ's Possible Question To You



"What did <u>You</u> do with <u>MY</u> Church under <u>Your</u> watch given all of the gifts <u>I</u> gave <u>You</u>?"



You can download this presentation at: www.stewardshipcalling.com



Under the Stewardship Tab go to the Metropolis of San Francisco – Igniting the Flame of **True Christian** Stewardship page https://stewardshipcalling .com/san-franciscometropolis-stewardshipprogram/

Send questions to: Bill@stewardshipcalling.com



Stewardship Calling Culture of True Stewardship Best Practices



Session 1 - September 1, 2020

- 1. Facts & Figures
- 2. Covid/Crisis Strategies
- 3. Science of Generosity Studies
- 4. A Culture of True
 Orthodox Stewardship

<u>Session 2 - September 15, 2020</u>

- 1. Leadership Alignment
- 2. Tithing and Percentage Giving
- 3. Increasing Engagement
- 4. The Personal Touch

Session 3 - September 29, 2020

- 1. Welcoming
- 2. Thanking
- 3. Youth Stewardship
- 4. Small Groups

<u>Session 4 - October 13, 2020</u>

- 1. Effective Messaging
- Campaigns (Stewardship, Capital & Planned Giving)
- 3. Transparency & Accountability
- 4. Stewardship Team

Session 5 - October 27, 2020 Questions & Answers



7 of 15 Culture of True Stewardship Practices



7. Total Welcoming Experience

A total and comprehensive welcoming experience (not just a welcoming committee in the Narthex) is critical in the development of true Stewardship



Top 5 Things People Look For In Picking A New Church



- 1. Quality of sermons (83%)
- 2. Feeling welcomed by leaders (79%)
- 3. Style of services (74%)
- 4. <u>Location</u> (70%)
- 5. Education for kids (56%)



Welcoming Ministry Is Among Your Most Important



- ~ It is Orthodox and sets the tone for the whole loving church experience
- ~ It is the second most important factor in people picking and staying in a church
- ~ It helps the people feel they made the right decision to worship with you
- ~ It makes people want to come back
- ~ It makes people feel like family
- ~ The Parish must emulate the kingdom of God, a culture overflowing with joy, peace and love

"A new commandment I give you, that you love one another; as I have loved you... By this shall all men know that you are my disciple.

John 13:34-35



Welcoming Ministry Is Among Your Most Important



- ~ Greeting newcomers in the narthex is merely the first (easiest) step
- ~ Find out about them and connect them with someone similar in the Parish
- ~ Have people available to sit with them and answer their questions (or translate)
- ~ Have someone take them around to meet similar people at the coffee hour
- ~ Have someone personally follow-up with them within a week to meet them in person and get to know them better
- ~ Personally bring them to at least one other Parish activity
- ~ Eventually, engage them in a ministry



Provocative Question



When was the last time you invited any non-Orthodox friend, neighbor, work colleague or person you met to join you in church on Sunday?

Provocative Question

71% of Protestant or nondenominational church goers have invited an individual or family to attend a worship service with them in the last 6 months

(and 25% of them have invited at least 3 individuals or families in the last 6 months)

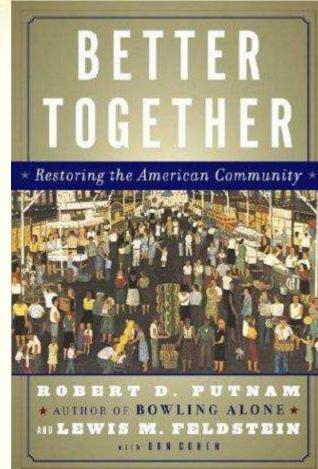


Total Welcoming Experience



Read: Better Together

- ~ A welcome package is not enough
- ~ Connect them with people similar who escorts them into the life of your church family
- ~ Get them to come back for more



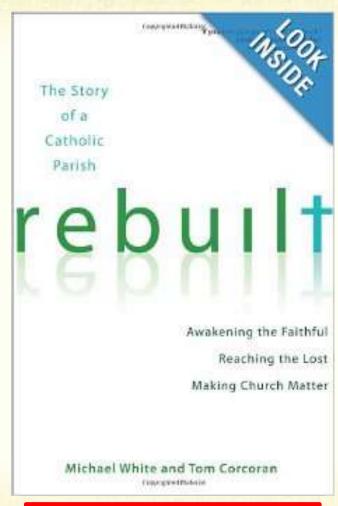
Especially read chapter 6



Total Welcoming Experience



Read Rebuilt: where a comprehensive **Welcoming Ministry** transformed Nativity Church by tripling their weekend church attendance and yielded increased giving, flourishing ministries, and a vibrant and solid spiritual revival.



Especially read chapter 6



8 of 15 Culture of True Stewardship Practices



8. Thanking Culture

A Parish that implements a comprehensive thanking culture, substantially improves relationships, results, engagement and accomplishments



Our 4 Primary Body Chemicals That Drive Emotions



SELFISH CHEMICALS (feel good hormones)

- **Endorphins** are pain-masking chemicals that help us push ourselves through tough circumstances (e.g., pain and stress motivators)
- **Dopamine** the addictive performance chemical meant to motivate us to achieve goals (also pervasive in those dependent on alcohol, gambling, social media likes, and other addictions)

SELFLESS CHEMICALS (happiness/cuddle hormones)

- Oxytocin the chemical produced by positive feelings we get from emotional bonds and physical touch (e.g., a warm feeling from spending time with someone you like)
- **Serotonin** the chemical produced when we are respected, admired and given positive treatment (e.g., a boost in our confidence that makes us feel awesome)



Thanking Culture



- ~True appreciation, and expressions of gratitude, are among the greatest motivators
- ~ Who doesn't like to be thanked, (even if you merely did what was expected)
- ~ Expressions of appreciation reinforce desired behavior (and for most people, the more (and public) the better)



Thanking Culture Science



- ~A 2014 study in Emotion
 - Thanking people made them more likely to seek an ongoing relationship
- ~ A 2012 study in Personality & Individual Differences
 - Grateful people were more likely to take care of their health
- ~ Dr. Robert Emmons (leading gratitude researcher)
 - Gratitude increases happiness and reduces depression



Thanking Culture Science



~ 2012 University of Kentucky study

People who thanked more retaliated less and were more prosocial

~ 2014 Journal of Applied Sports Psychology study

Gratitude increased an athlete's self-esteem, which is an essential component to optimal performance



Thanking Culture



YOU SHOULD THANK

- ~ Personally
- ~ Genuinely
- ~In writing
- ~ Publicly
- ~ Repeatedly
- ~ For everything
- ~ Encourage others to thank
- ~Share it



Thanking Culture



Write <u>personal</u> notes or thank you cards (or sign the form thank you letters) and send a variety of thank-yous for:

- ~ Stewardship pledges
- ~ Volunteer activities
- ~ Ministry service
- ~ Each contribution of anything
- ~ Attendance
- ~ Mentoring
- ~ Service to others





"You either have a thank you culture or you do not have a very good one."



9 of 15 Culture of True Stewardship Practices



9. Youth Stewardship

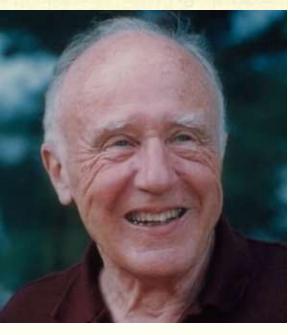
The science shows that the weak understanding and practice of stewardship among youth and emerging adults is the result of the lack of effective stewardship teaching and practices by adults/parents

FINSTIFIN



Youth Stewardship





Dr. Edward

Lorenz

Dartmouth

Harvard

~ Chaos Theory studies dynamic systems

~ Small differences in initial conditions yield widely diverging outcomes

M.I.T.



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)



Youth Discipleship Provocative Question



- ~ The average American family spent <u>\$671</u> <u>per child</u> - <u>per year</u> on just sports training and costs
- ~ The average American family spends about \$2,400 per child - per year on ALL enrichment support (sports, music, dance, arts, education, language, etc.)
- ~ How much did you spend on your children's religious enrichment last year?

¹ Forbes - Oct 4, 2012 - "1 In 5 American Parents Spending More Than \$1,000 Per Child On Sports Related Expenses"

² Activity Hero - July 26, 2019 - "Budgeting for Extracurriculars: What's the Right Amount to Spend?"



Youth Discipleship Provocative Question



- ~ About 0.05% of all children who play high school sports will play professional sports 1
- ~ 100% of all children will eventually stand before the awesome judgment seat of Christ
- ~ What is a better investment for your children's future than their spiritual health (e.g., funding a full-time church youth director/pastoral assistant)?



"Kiss Your Youth Goodbye!" 1



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



It is NOT a Universal Problem



PASSION CONFERENCE

(for 18-25 year olds - http://268generation.com)

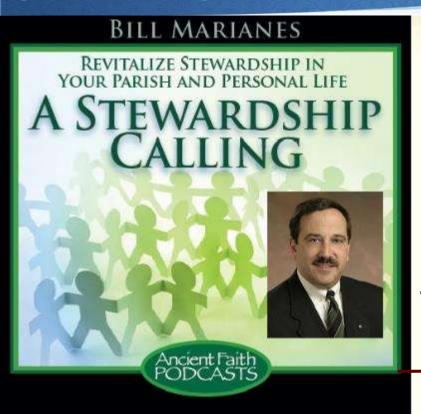
"Hundreds of thousands of collegeaged young people have come together in stadiums and arenas across the USA and around the globe to worship Jesus... and join hands to extend His mercy and grace to the world."

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 = \$9.70 in 2020)
- ~ (10/10/80 Rule) First 10% of income is your tithe (of stewardship to The Kingdom); the next 10% is saved for the future/retirement and you live on the remaining 80%
- ~ What do millennials and younger think of when you mention stewardship?

Ancient Faith Ministries



"Stewardship Over God's Creation & Creatures"

July 3, 2019

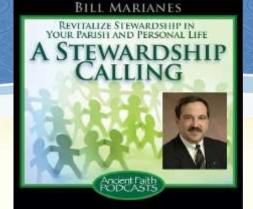
Dr. Alexis Marianes

Reserva Jaguara pira (Brazil) & Sustainable Innovations Initiative (Trinidad)



https://www.ancientfait h.com/podcasts/stewar dshipcalling/stewardshi p over gods creation





To help teach stewardship over God's Creation and Creatures to your youth and emerging adults go to: https://stewardshipcalling.com/internet-radio/ and scroll down to JULY 3, 2019 to download:

- ~ The Patriarchal Encyclical for the Protection of the Environment (Indiction 2019)
- ~ PowerPoint Presentation on Stewardship over God's creation and creatures at the OCA All American Council July, 2018 in St Louis



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



You Must Have A Separate Parish Youth Stewardship



- ~ 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 also their treasures



You Must Have A Separate Parish Youth Stewardship



- Sponsor many different service opportunities (including mission trips)
- ~ Use creative processes to help youth start to discern their gifts and 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 - their examples will inspire others)



Youth Stewardship Card

Stewardship Through the Saints



Ascension Catholic Church

2020 Stewardship Renewal Youth Commitment Card (up to age 16)

First & Last Name(s)	
Parents' First & Last Name	
Street Address	
City	State
ZIP	
Telephone (Youth)	
Family Email	
Parent Signature	
Disclaimer: By signing, yo permission to contact yo device for church relate	ur child via their mobile
Please bring this	card to Mass on

Page 1 -**Demographic Info**

August 22/23, or mail using the

envelope provided. Thanks and God bless you!

Time

Spending Time with God in Prayer

 Attend Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days Attend weekday Mass at least once a week Spend 15 minutes a day in personal prayer Spend one hour a week in Adoration of the Blessed Pray together with my loved ones Read the Bible for one hour a week Pray the Rosary at least weekly O Go to confession every other month Pray for an increase in vocations Pray for our priests Talent Using My Talents in Parish Ministries □= Currently Active ○= Interested in Joining LClearly write the first name of interested person on the line. Altar Server (fourth grade and above) ☐ ○ Environment Committee Eucharistic Minister (16 years or older and have been confirmed) ☐ ○ Faith Formation/Confirmation Participant ☐ ○ Hospitality Minister (12 years or older) Lector (for those who have been confirmed and older) ■ ○ Video/Audio Ministries (High School or

Treasure

Other

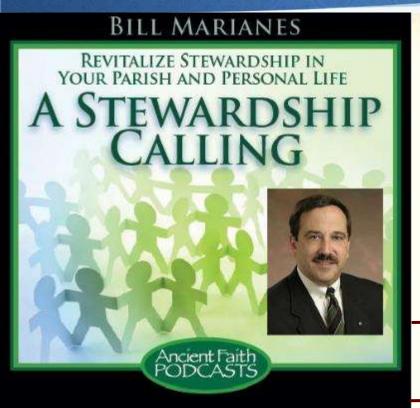
Giving Part of My Money to God

■ Young People's Chair (7th grade-college) ☐ ○ Youth Activities - Middle School ☐ ○ Youth Group - High School

Share or donate toys and/or clothing Donate part of your allowance/income by using weekly envelopes

Page 2 - Time, Talents & Treasurers





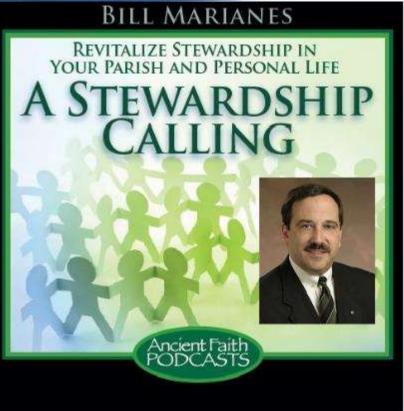
"The Forgotten Most Important Stewards in our Orthodox Christian Churches – Youth and Emerging Adults"

May 1, 2019

https://www.ancientfai th.com/podcasts/stewa rdshipcalling/youth a nd young adults the forgotten stewards Steve Christoforou

of GOA Y2AM





https://www.ancientfa ith.com/podcasts/stew ardshipcalling/press A discussion of the pioneering Orthodox youth and emerging adult teaching book, "Press A to Begin" (a part of the Neptic Warrior Series) that speaks the language of current generations.

March 4, 2020

Scott Davenport

Scott spent 25 years in the music industry with Island Def Jam and Geffen Records working with Justin Bieber, Rihanna, Jay Z, Aerosmith, Kanye West, The Eagles, Guns and Roses, Bon Jovi, Mariah Carey and Nirvana and many more musicians.



REVITALIZE STEWARDSHIP IN YOUR PARISH AND PERSONAL LIFE A STEWARDSHIP CALLING Ancient Faith PODCASTS

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

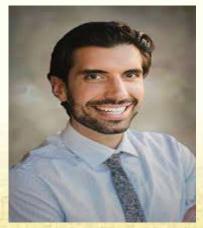
Part 1 = 4/30/17Part 2 = 7/30/17

https://www.ancientfaith.c om/podcasts/stewardshipc alling/losing_our_christian youth

https://www.ancientfaith.c om/podcasts/stewardshipc alling/youth_part_2



Dr. Ann Bezzerides



Steve Christoforou



Orthodox Youth Stewardship Resources



3 Amazing Modules to Help You

Lead Young People to Jesus Christ



- 1. Effective Christian Ministry: Greek
 Orthodox Archdiocese Y2AM "3
 Amazing Modules to Help You Lead
 Young People to Jesus Christ
 https://effectivechristianministry.org/
- 2. Orthodox Church in America "Giving Children The Chance To Give":

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



Youth Stewardship Resources



- 3. The National Study of Youth and Religion information can be found here:
 - http://youthandreligion.nd.edu/
- 4. "Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers" that can be found here:

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

5. Roman Catholic Diocese of Toledo:

www.catholic-doc.org/stewardship/CaringSharing.pdf



Youth Stewardship Resources



6. Texas Methodist Foundation Youth Stewardship Principles: www.numf.org/file download/5fafco9c-83f3-4ace-98e4-cfc7382e7a3

7. United Methodist Church 12-month Stewardship Program:

https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/atwelve-month-plan-for-stewardship-in-the-localchurch



14 of 15 Culture of True Stewardship Practices



14. Small Groups

SMALL GROUPS IS ONE OF THE MOST TRANSFORMATIONAL THINGS A PARISH CAN DO TO CULTIVATE A SENSE OF COMMUNITY





"The bigger a church gets, the smaller it must become!"





- ~ Up to 10 people who gather weekly at homes to explore important spiritual topics and help each other deal with personal life issues
- ~ Discuss some spiritual/religious educational content
- ~ Discuss whatever life is dealing them





~ It is Orthodox even though non-Orthodox have proven its validity

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

Matthew 18:20

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another...

Hebrews 10:24-25



10 Benefits of Small Groups¹



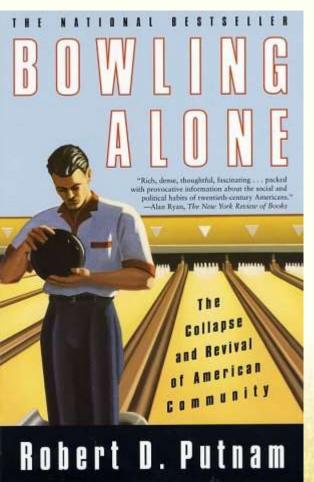
- 1. Life change happens best in small groups
- 2. Small groups make churches personal
- 3. Small groups provide a nearly unlimited leadership development pipeline
- 4. Off-campus small groups provide nearly unlimited space at optimum times
- 5. "Come over to my house" is a much easier invitation than "come with me to church."
- 6. Small groups provide the best opportunity for one-anothering
- 7. Small groups can provide a sense of family for many whose biological family lives far away
- 8. I can ask questions in a small group
- 9. Small groups make it possible for more people to be cared for between Sundays
- 10. Small groups provide an ever-expanding network for communication and impact

https://ministrytodaymag.com/outreach/discipleship/20558-10-powerful-benefits-of-a-small-group-ministry

¹ Mark Howell, founder of <u>SmallGroupResources.net</u> and the pastor of discipleship communities at Canyon Ridge Christian Church. See full article and references at:

"Social Capital"

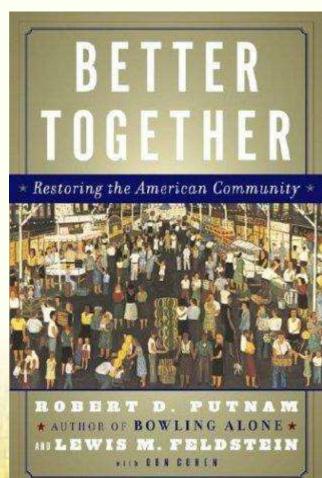
A key to a growing Parish is to increase "Social Capital."



Social Capital =

1. the collective value of everyone you know (your "social networks")

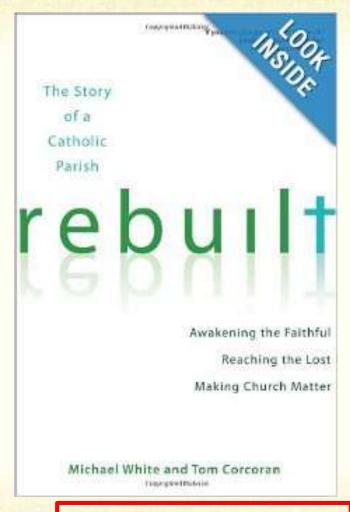
2. the desire to do things for each other that our networks foster ("reciprocity")







Small groups helped transform Nativity Church by tripling their weekend church attendance and yielding increased giving, flourishing ministries, and a vibrant and solid spiritual revival.

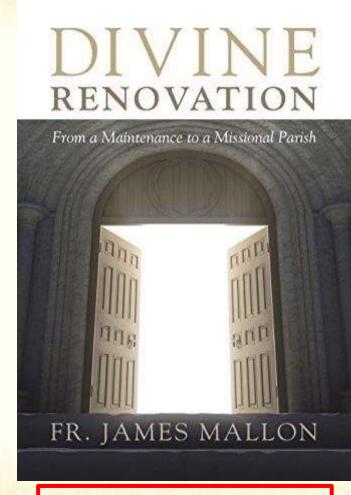


Especially read chapter 9





"Small Communities" (small groups or midsized groups) have transformed St. **Benedict Church into** caring and loving subcommunities within the whole of their church community.



Especially read pages 168-176



Selected Orthodox Small Group Examples





<u>Annunciation Cathedral - Atlanta</u> https://www.atlgoc.org/small-groups



<u>Holy Trinity – San Francisco</u> https://www.holytrinitysf.org/holytrinity-fellowship-groups



Orthodox Christian Fellowship https://www.ocf.net/smallgroups/

What do small groups talk about?



GOA Y2AM Ministry
https://www.y2am.org/smallgroups



Good Small Group Resources





<u>Small Groups.com</u> https://www.smallgroups.com/



Small Groups.nethttps://smallgroups.net/



North Point Community Church https://northpoint.org/groups



"The heart of Saddleback is Small Groups.

Our Baddleback Small Groups Team wants to one warry person in a healthy Small Group. Our team is passionate about getting people in groups and getting groups healthy.

Saddleback Church
https://saddleback.com/connect/
smallgroups

Additional Small Groups Ministry Resources

- Donahue, Bill; Robinson, Russ; Building a Church of Small Groups: a place where nobody stands alone, Willow Creek Association, Zondervan, 2001.
- •Donahue, Bill; Robinson, Russ; Building a Life Changing Small Group Ministry: A Strategic Guide for Leading Group Life in Your Church (Groups that Grow), Willow Creek Association, Zondervan, 2012.
- Donahue, Bill; Leading Life Changing Small Groups (Groups that Grow), Willow Creek Association, Zondervan, 2012.
- Donahue, Bill; Robinson, Russ; Coaching Life Changing Small Groups: A Comprehensive Guide for Developing Leaders of Group & Teams (Group that Grow), Willow Creek Association, Zondervan, 2012.
- Donahue, Bill; Robinson, Russ; Walking the Small Group Tightrope: meeting the challenges every group faces, Willow Creek Association, Zondervan, 2003.
- •Cloud, Henry; Townsend, John; Making Small Groups Work: What Every Small Group Leader Needs to Know, Zondervan, 2003.
- •McBride, Neal; How to Lead Small Groups, NavPress, 1990.

Additional Small Groups Ministry Resources

- Bunch, Cindy; Small Group Idea Book: Resources to Enrich Community, Worship, Prayer, Nurture, Outreach, InterVarsity Press, 1996.
- Lee-Thorp, Karen; How to Ask Great Questions: Guide Your Group to Discovery With These Proven Techniques, Pilgrimage Small Group Resource, NavPress, 1998.
- Nyquist, James; Leading Bible Discussions, InterVarsity Press, 1976.
- Block, Peter, Community, the Structure of Belonging, Berrett-Koehler Publ, 2009
- Bolsinger, Tod, Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory, InterVarsity Press, 2015.
- Hybels, Bill, New Identity: Discovering Who You Are in Christ, InterActions small group series Willow Creek Association, Zondervan, 1996.
- Hybels, Bill, Essential Christianity: Practical Steps for Spiritual Growth, InterActions small group series Willow Creek Association, Zondervan, 1998.

Additional Small Groups Ministry Resources

- Hybels, Bill, Marriage: Building Real Intimacy, InterActions small group series (6 sessions), Willow Creek Association, Zondervan, 1996.
- Hybels, Bill, Jesus: Seeing Him More Clearly, InterActions small group series (6 sessions), Willow Creek Association, Zondervan, 1997.
- Hybels, Bill, Getting A Grip: Finding Balance in Your Daily Life, InterActions small group series, Willow Creek Association, Zondervan, 1998.
- •Reapsome, James & Martha; Marriage: God's Design for Intimacy 12 Studies for individuals or groups, A LifeGuide Bible Study, InterVarsity Press, 1986
- •Hunt, Gladys M.; The God Who Understands Me: The Sermon on the Mount, 15 inductive studies for neighborhood, student, and church groups, Fisherman Bible Studyguide, Harold Shaw Publishers, 1971.



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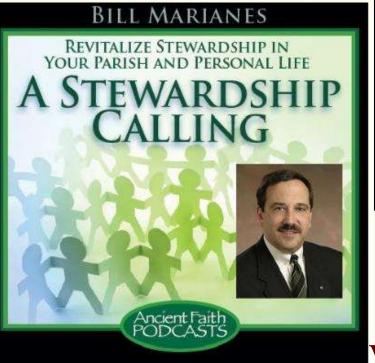
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Session 5 - October 27, 2020 Questions & Answers







Two Many First Stones
Were Thrown At You and
How You Can Survive
2020 and Beyond

2020 Vision - The Year

https://www.ancientfaith .com/live

Wednesday, October 7, 2020

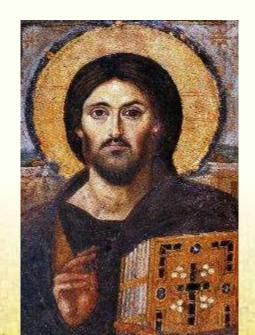
AND NOW BACK TO OUR REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING



Christ's Possible Question To You



"What did You do with MY Church under Your watch given all of the gifts I gave You?"









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

Luke 12:48

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www.orthodoxministry.org/