



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE of AMERICA  
DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΗΡΕΣΣΗΣ  
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY



## *Igniting the Flame*

# *A Culture of True Orthodox Christian Stewardship and Generosity*

*(Part 2)*

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

Luke 12:48

**Bill Marianes**

[Bill@stewardshipcalling.com](mailto:Bill@stewardshipcalling.com)



**Stewardship  
Calling**

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

[www.stewardshipcalling.com](http://www.stewardshipcalling.com)



**ORTHODOX  
MINISTRY  
SERVICES**

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

[www.orthodoxministry.org/](http://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**

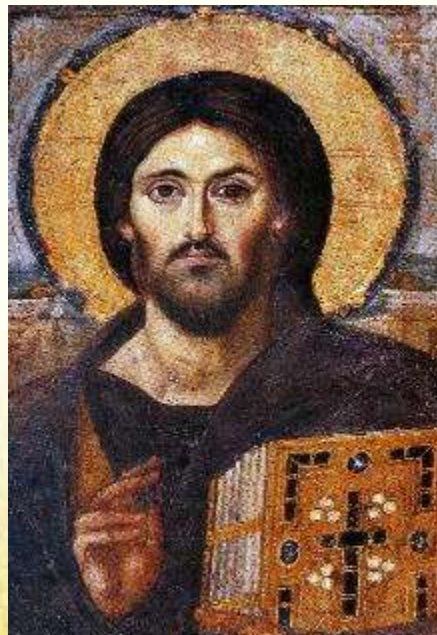




## Christ's Possible Question To You



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





You can download this presentation at:  
**[www.stewardshipcalling.com](http://www.stewardshipcalling.com)**

**Stewardship Calling**  
What are you doing with all of the gifts God has given you?

WHY ARE YOU HERE? EFFECTIVE CHURCH MODEL **STEWARDSHIP** YOUR BUDGETING INTERVIEW RADIO / PODCASTS

KEYNOTES & LEADERSHIP BLOG RESOURCES STEWARDSHIP TRAINING VIDEOS PERSONAL HAGIA SOPHIA

**DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT & METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY - IGNITING THE FLAME OF TRUE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP**

THE PROBABLY METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY THODOS METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

Direct Archdiocesan District & Metropolis Igniting The Flame Of True Orthodox Christian Stewardship

With the blessings of Archbishop Elpidophoros, Archdiocese of America, I am honored to be del presentation of the Igniting The Flame of True Orthodox Christian Stewardship Program for the Direct Archdiocese New Jersey. We will discuss the 15 proven best Stewardship.

Here is the agenda of the 6 sessions

**Stewardship Calling True Stewardship Best**

Session 1 - December 8, 2020  
1. Facts & Figures Of What Is Happening In Our Churches  
2. Covid / Crisis Strategies  
3. Questions & Answers

Session 2 - January 26, 2021  
1. The Move From "Does" To Percentage Giving & Tithing  
2. Increasing Engagement  
3. The Personal Touch  
4. Questions & Answers

Session 3 - February 23, 2021  
1. Youth Stewardship  
2. Effective Messaging  
3. Questions & Answers

Session 4 - February 9, 2021  
1. Welcoming  
2. Thanking  
3. Small Groups  
4. Questions & Answers

Session 5 - March 6, 2021  
1. Campaigns - Stewardship, Capital & Planned Giving  
2. Transparency & Accountability  
3. Stewardship Team  
4. Questions & Answers

Session 6 - March 13, 2021  
1. Campaigns - Stewardship, Capital & Planned Giving  
2. Transparency & Accountability  
3. Stewardship Team  
4. Questions & Answers

Send questions to: [Bill@stewardshipcalling.com](mailto:Bill@stewardshipcalling.com)  
[archdiocalline.com](http://archdiocalline.com)

Under the Stewardship Tab  
go to the Direct Archdiocesan District & Metropolis of New Jersey - Igniting the Flame of True Orthodox Christian Stewardship page at  
**<https://stewardshipcalling.com/direct-archdiocese-district-metropolis-of-new-jersey-igniting-the-flame-of-true-orthodox-christian-stewardship/>**

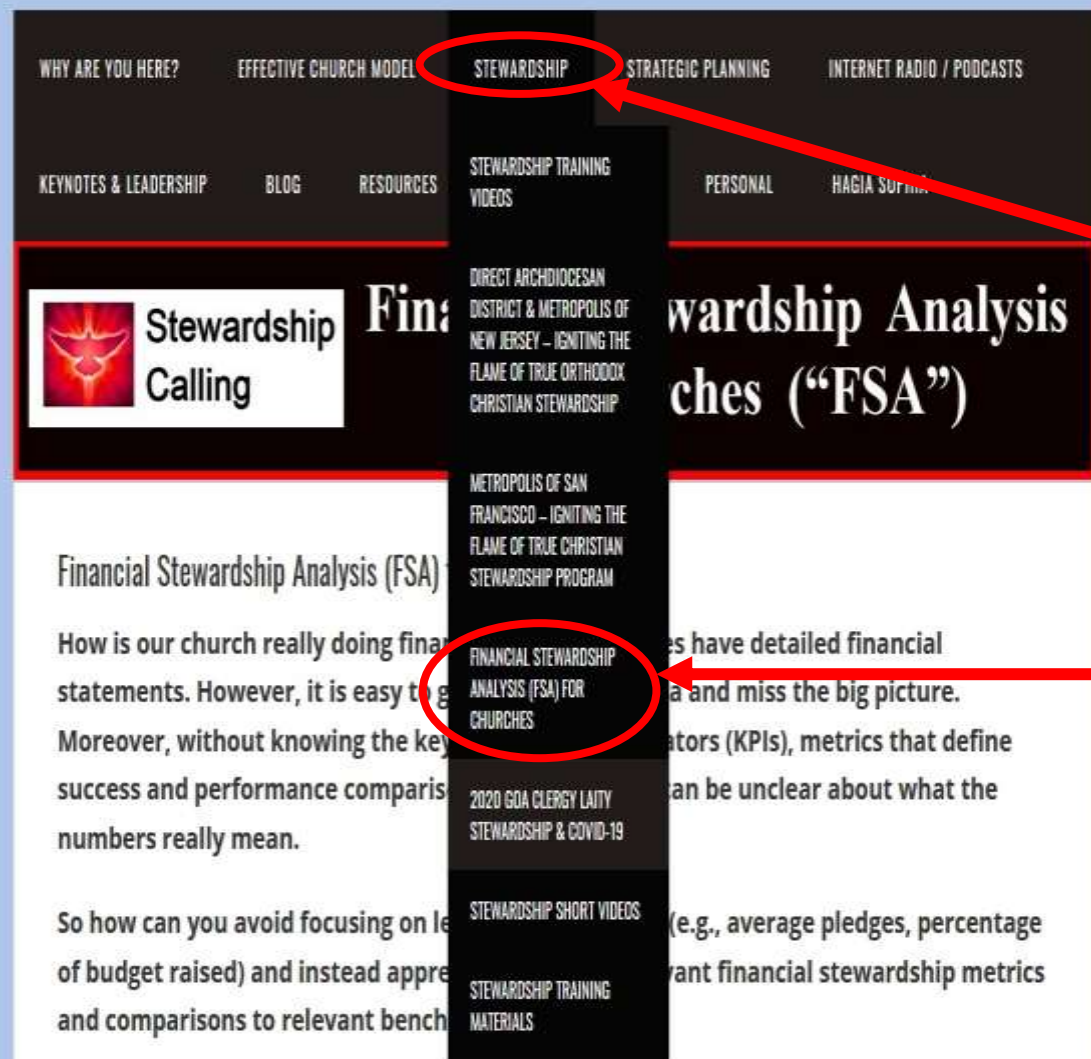
**Send questions to: [Bill@stewardshipcalling.com](mailto:Bill@stewardshipcalling.com)**



# Stewardship Calling

What are you doing with all of the gifts God has given you?

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**Stewardship Tab and the Financial Stewardship Analysis drop down:**  
<https://stewardshipcalling.com/financial-stewardship-analysis-fsa-for-churches/>

**If you are interested in a Financial Stewardship Analysis for your parish, please email: [Bill@stewardshipcalling.com](mailto:Bill@stewardshipcalling.com)**



Stewardship  
Calling

# Financial Stewardship Analysis for Churches



A Special Free Service Available to Your Parish

- ~ A FREE best practices financial analytic review over 250+ Orthodox Christian parishes benefited from
- ~ An FSA explains what is happening with your financial stewardship and where you need to focus
- ~ It includes key performance indicator metrics and performance comparisons

Learn more here: <https://stewardshipcalling.com/financial-stewardship-analysis-fsa-for-churches/>

Or contact: [Bill@stewardshipcalling.com](mailto:Bill@stewardshipcalling.com)



**Organizational culture eats strategy  
for breakfast, lunch and dinner**



**Culture**



**Strategy**





# Stewardship Calling Culture of True Stewardship Best Practices



## Session 1 - December 8, 2020

1. Facts & Figures Of What Is Happening In Our Churches
2. Covid / Crisis Strategies
3. Questions & Answers

## Session 2 - January 12, 2021

1. Science Of Generosity Studies
2. A Culture Of True Stewardship
3. Leadership Alignment
4. Questions & Answers

## Session 3 - January 26, 2021

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4. Questions & Answers

## Session 4 - February 9, 2021

1. Welcoming
2. Thanking
3. Small Groups
4. Questions & Answers

## Session 5 - February 23, 2021

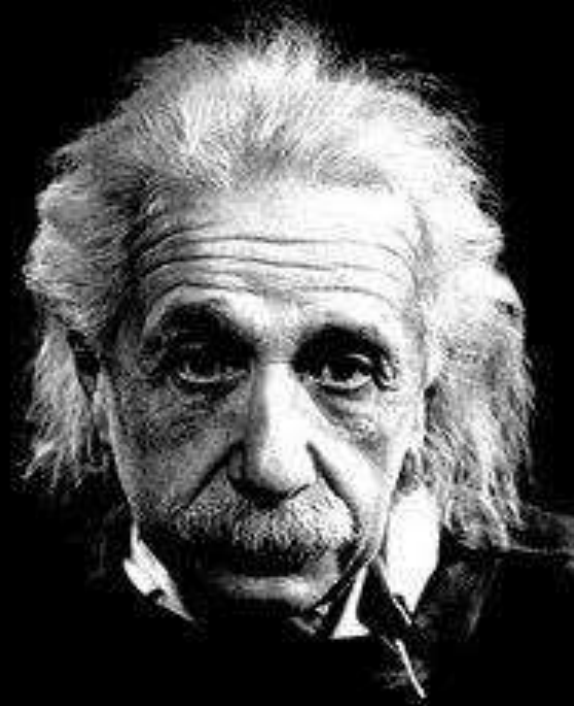
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## Session 6 - March 9, 2021

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"WE CANNOT  
SOLVE OUR  
PROBLEMS  
WITH THE SAME  
THINKING WE  
USED WHEN WE  
CREATED THEM"







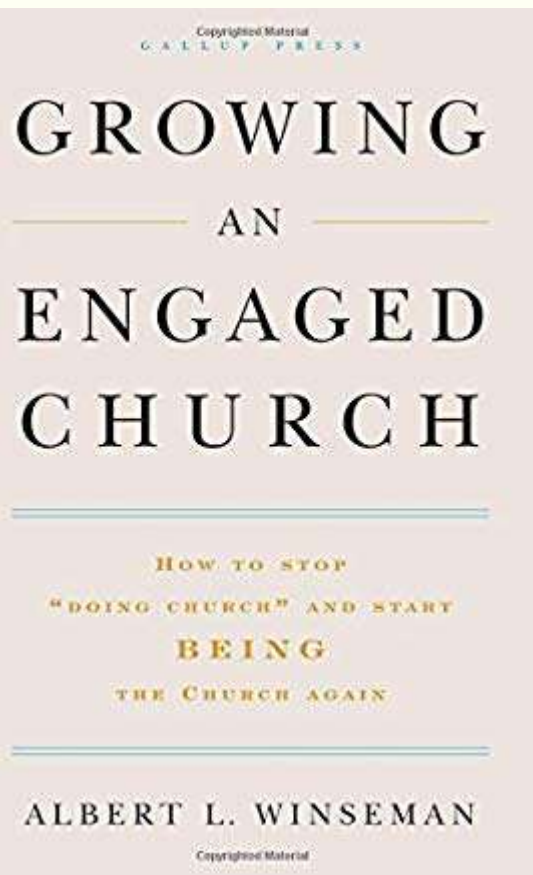
# **The Comprehensive Solution to Most of Your Parish Challenges**

## **ENGAGEMENT**





# A Must Read For Every Priest and Church Leader



## Growing An Engaged Church: How To Stop “Doing Church” And Start Being The Church Again

**By: Al Winseman, Global Practice Leader for Faith-Based Organizations for the Gallup Organization**



# The Empirical Data Shows<sup>1</sup>



**“...congregations with engaged members are:**

- 1. spiritually healthier;**
- 2. better able to:**
  - (a) carry out their missions,**
  - (b) attract more new people,**
  - (c) fund new ventures; and**
- 3. have a higher percentage of spiritually committed individuals.”**

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<sup>1</sup> Growing An Engaged Church: How To Stop “Doing Church” And Start Being The Church Again – By Al Winseman, Global Practice Leader for Faith-Based Organizations for the Gallup Organization





# The Empirical Data Shows<sup>1</sup>



**“Spiritual commitment is usually a result of one big – and often overlooked – factor: congregational engagement.**

**Focus on improving engagement and increased commitment will follow.”**

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<sup>1</sup> Growing An Engaged Church: How To Stop “Doing Church” And Start Being The Church Again – By Al Winseman, Global Practice Leader for Faith-Based Organizations for the Gallup Organization



# The Empirical Data Shows<sup>1</sup>



**“How much members give financially, how many hours they volunteer in community service, and how often they invite others to their congregations are more dependent on engagement than on any other factor.”**

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<sup>1</sup> Growing An Engaged Church: How To Stop “Doing Church” And Start Being The Church Again – By Al Winseman, Global Practice Leader for Faith-Based Organizations for the Gallup Organization



# The Empirical Data Shows<sup>1</sup>



**“Your job as a leader is not to placate the actively disengaged. It is to create and grow disciples.”**

**“One reason United States congregations are in trouble is that they have a low percentage of engaged members.”**

**“So the very first thing you, as a leader, must do to ensure congregation effectiveness is to clarify ‘membership expectations.’ ”**

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<sup>1</sup> Growing An Engaged Church: How To Stop “Doing Church” And Start Being The Church Again – By Al Winseman, Global Practice Leader for Faith-Based Organizations for the Gallup Organization





# The Empirical Data Shows<sup>1</sup>



**“... those who are engaged give more to their congregations than anyone else does...”**

**“Each year, engaged members give a median of 5% of their annual income...”**

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<sup>1</sup> Growing An Engaged Church: How To Stop “Doing Church” And Start Being The Church Again – By Al Winseman, Global Practice Leader for Faith-Based Organizations for the Gallup Organization



# **# 1 of 15 Culture of True Stewardship Practices**



## **1. Stewardship & Generosity**

**What is Stewardship and  
what does Holy Scripture  
teach about Stewardship?**



# Science of Generosity Studies


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



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Search Science of Generosity



SCIENCE of GENEROSITY

*exploring an essential human virtue*

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**SCIENCE OF GENEROSITY**  
INITIATIVE

Watch the Video

The Science of Generosity

Sci-Port Museum's Sci Gen Exhibit

Generosity and Marriage

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



1. Each person usually decides whether or not they will be generous, and a giver, at a fairly early age (usually influenced by their parents).
2. After they form a personal generosity opinion, people look for easy and routine ways to be generous (so parishes must make giving easy).
3. Reinforced by years of generosity, it becomes a habit, and being a good steward is cemented in their adult behaviors and DNA (and what they teach their children / grandchildren).



# Science of Generosity Studies



4. A Parish should create and communicate a culture of generosity, and social networks that support generosity, for parishioners (including youth) to see themselves as a part of that generous culture.
5. Parishes need to cultivate an attitude of abundance and gratitude, not scarcity, since most of us are blessed. Attitudes of abundance have been shown psychologically and biologically to cause people to reframe their reality and become more generous.





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BILL MARIANES

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YOUR PARISH AND PERSONAL LIFE

## A STEWARDSHIP CALLING



Ancient Faith  
PODCASTS

# The Generosity Challenge – The Top Issue Facing Parishes and Parishioners

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How to Create a  
Culture of Generosity  
in Your Life & Parish:  
Sunday,  
December 30, 2018

[https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/stewardshipcalling/how to solve the biggest challenge in our parishes today](https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/stewardshipcalling/how_to_solve_the_biggest_challenge_in_our_parishes_today)



# Definitions of Stewardship





# Today's Life Changing Idea



INY IG





## Today's Life Changing Idea



It's Not Yours  
It's God's

**“You received without paying,  
give without pay.”**

Matthew 10:8





# The Stewardship Calling Stewardship Definition



Stewardship...

...what you do with ALL  
the gifts God gave you



# A Reflection on Christian Stewardship<sup>1</sup>



**“Do I possess the house in which I live? No, it is only on loan to me from God while I remain in that place.**

**Do I possess the clothes I wear? No, they are on loan to me until they wear out, or until I give them away to someone in greater need.**

**Do I possess this body that you see before you? No, it was lent to me by God when I was born, and He will take it back when I die.**

**Do I possess the mind that is composing the words that I speak? No, that too was lent by God at my birth and will go when I die.”**

---

<sup>1</sup> St John Chrysostom from *On Living Simply: The Golden Voice of John Chrysostom*





# **A Reflection on Christian Stewardship<sup>1</sup>**



**“So do I possess anything?**

**Yes, I possess the virtues which during my life have grown and flourished within my soul.**

**Inasmuch as I have grown in faith, I possess faith. Inasmuch as I have grown in gentleness, I possess gentleness.**

**These things are immortal; they are divine gifts which God will not take away, because He wants heaven itself to be filled with virtue.**

**And, of course, I possess my soul, in which these virtues have their roots.”**

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<sup>1</sup> St John Chrysostom from *On Living Simply: The Golden Voice of John Chrysostom*



# The Parable of Generosity



The parable featured in all 4 Gospels

**Matthew 14:13**

**Mark 6:31**

**Luke 9:12**

**John 6:1-14**





# The Parable of Generosity



**“There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many.”**

**John 6:9**





**“But this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. *(2 Corinthians 9: 6-8)***





**“For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.”**  
*(Luke 12:48)*

**“Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessings the Lord your God gave you.”**

*(Deuteronomy 16:17)*

**Message:**

**Proportional giving**



**“On the first day of the week  
(i.e., Sunday) let each one of you  
lay something aside, storing up  
as he may prosper ....I will  
send... your gift to Jerusalem”  
(i.e., the Church center at that time)**

***(1 Corinthians 16:2-3)***

## **Message:**

**Weekly giving**

**Proportional giving**

**Giving for the work of the Church**





**“Command those who are rich... not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches... Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”** *(1 Timothy 6:17-19)*

**Message:**

**Basis for link between stewardship, spiritual growth and ultimately salvation**



# The Parable of the Talents



**“Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much.”**

*(Matthew 25:14-30)*



**Scripture Discusses Money  
Frequently  
(i.e., it's OK to properly  
ask for money for God's  
house and Christ's church)**





# Matthew 19:16-26



~ The question asked our Lord was: “What good deed must I do to have eternal life?”

~ “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come follow me.”

~ Are you prepared to go ALL IN?



# Luke 16:11



**“And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth,**



**...who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?”**





# A Possible Stewardship Question from our Lord



- What did you do with the money over which I allowed you to be a steward?
- PERSONAL SUGGESTION #1: Each week, fill out an accounting to God of what you did with His money this past week
- PERSONAL SUGGESTION #2: Give your parishioners some money and ask them to explain what they did to cause it to multiply in God's Kingdom





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YOUR PARISH AND PERSONAL LIFE

## A STEWARDSHIP CALLING



Ancient Faith  
PODCASTS

# The Good and Faithful Servant Challenge

Did you hear the one about the church that gave its parishioners \$30,000 and told them to give it away? And all they had to send back was a post card about who they helped and how it felt?

**May 6, 2020**

[https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/stewardshipcalling/who\\_gives\\_away](https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/stewardshipcalling/who_gives_away)



**Fr. Luke Veronis**

Saints Constantine and Helen  
Greek Orthodox Church in  
Webster, MA



# **# 2 of 15 Culture of True Stewardship Practices**



## **2. Leadership Alignment**

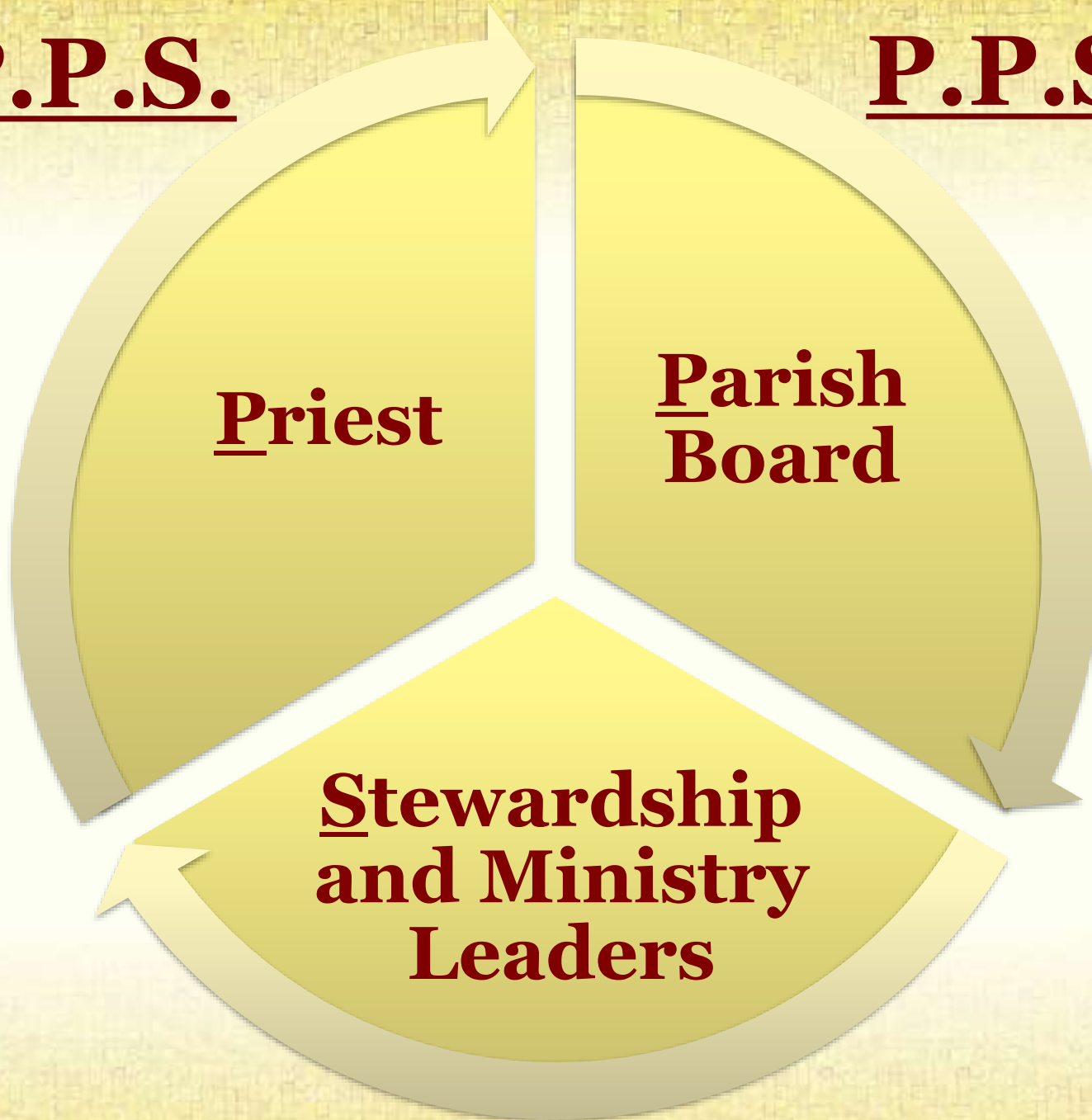
**Align your Parish leadership  
around your Parish vision of  
Stewardship (“P.P.S.”)**



**P.P.S.**



**P.P.S.**







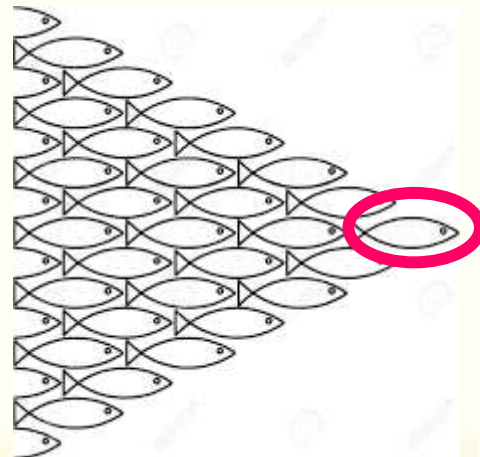
# Your Leadership Challenge



***Τα ψάρια μυρίζουν  
από την κεφαλή***

**“The fish smells from the  
head on down” or**

**“The direction of the head  
determines the direction  
of the fish”**





# Church Leaders



**“The most basic task of the Church leader is to discern the spiritual gifts of all those under his authority, and to encourage those gifts to be used to the full for the benefit of all.**

**Only a person who can discern the gifts of others and can humbly rejoice at the flowering of those gifts is fit to lead the Church.”**



# P.P.S.



**Priest / Parish Board / Stewardship  
and Ministry Leaders ALL must:**

- 1. Agree on the Parish Stewardship strategy (service and engagement)**
- 2. Completely buy-in, actively participate and own it**
- 3. Lead the Stewardship process and practice by example**
- 4. Help ensure the approval and buy-in of the Parish as a whole**





# P.P.S.



## Role of Church Leaders

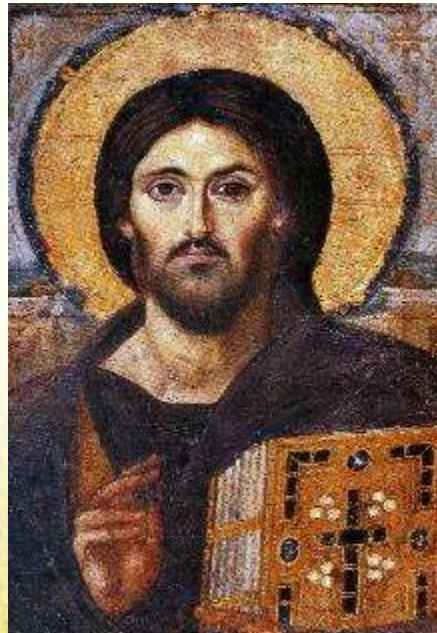
- ~ Hand picked community “servant leaders” who ALL lead by example (e.g., be among the first stewards who are actively engaged and give sacrificially)
- ~ Servant Leadership training is essential for all members of the Parish Council and all Ministry Leaders (including youth leaders)



# 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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*(Part 2)*

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live their stewardship callings so that  
they may have a good account before  
the awesome judgment seat of Christ

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