

**Stewardship Commission**  
**American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese**  
**XXI Council-Sobor**  
**June 14-15, 2010**  
**Johnstown, PA**

Report of the Stewardship Commission

As a result of discussions held at the XXI Diocesan Sobor/Council in 2009, His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas has appointed a Stewardship Commission for the charting of a direction for the Diocese in the understanding and implementation of Christian Stewardship. This booklet is the first fruits of the Commission's labor toward that goal. The Stewardship Commission of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese includes:

Reverend Father Frederick Watson

Reverend Father Basil Aden

Reverend Father Deacon Stephen Hall

Mr. John Bilanin

The Commission has set forth a three-year plan, in which the first year will be dedicated to stewardship education throughout the diocese. The plan for the following years will include providing resources for the development of stewardship initiatives in our parishes and among the apostolates of our Diocese. Included in the Commission's plan for 2010-2011 are presentations on stewardship at the Priests' Convocation (completed), the re-convened Sobor/Council (current), the Christian Education Conference (under the direction of Fr. Kenneth Bachofsky and set for September 18 at Camp Nazareth), a stewardship curriculum for youth for use this summer camping season at Camp Nazareth; a presentation at the ACRY Convention, a presentation at the Deacon's Retreat in December, and a proposed stewardship education session within the diocesan Seminary curriculum. In addition, a regular stewardship column in the *Church Messenger* will commence later this year. It is the plan of the Commission to try and reach all levels of diocesan life. This would include the calling of a joint

meeting of all Diocesan Commissions and Apostolates to discuss the impact of Christian stewardship in their work and a meeting with the Diocesan Board of Trustees and the Diocesan Chancery for the same purpose,

Stewardship education is also among the responsibilities of our clergy and laity in local parishes. So we come to our Commission's first resource. This is the first in what may be a series of resources on the implementation of Christian Stewardship in our diocese.

STEWARDSHIP: A WAY OF LIFE is intended to be a resource of materials for personal and parish reflection. It includes the proposed Stewardship Mission Statement for our Diocese, and a theological reflection on that statement. The resource further contains materials that can be used individually as well as in educational settings. These materials include sermons and sermon ideas for the clergy, youth stewardship studies and stewardship materials garnered from other Orthodox Christians whose insights may be helpful in our own stewardship education.

Future resources will develop more specific strategies for the implementation of Christian stewardship not only in our parishes but in our Diocese as a whole. But we begin with prayer, reflection and study. And that is the purpose of this booklet. There is no set way to use the materials in it. They are commended to you as you seek to find the best way to begin the process of thinking and praying about Christian stewardship in each of our lives.

This resource has been prepared in two formats: one is on CD and the other is a printed copy of the CD materials for those who cannot access from electronic media. The CD is being distributed one per parish, and the hard copy is available from the Commission upon request. The materials are not copyrighted, except for those borrowed and attributed to others. The materials are for your use, you can do with them as you please, making them suitable for each situation in which they are to be used. Here is the outline of the resource STEWARDSHIP: A WAY OF LIFE:

## A. Introduction

1. How to Use this Resource
2. Letter from the Bishop

## B. Stewardship Mission Statement and Reflection

## C. Stewardship and the Church Fathers – Chrysostom

1. Chrysostom and Stewardship (Clergy Convocation 2010)
2. Chrysostom and Stewardship PowerPoint
3. St. John Chrysostom, Almsgiving and Persons with Disabilities
4. Chrysostom and the Wise Stewardship of our Money
5. St. John Chrysostom and the Problem of Wealth

## D. Stewardship Sermons

1. Luke 12:16-21 Sermon A
2. Luke 12:16-21 Sermon B
3. Veneration of the Cross Sermon
4. The Good Samaritan Sermon
5. Luke 16:19-41 Sermon
6. All our Gifts (2 Thessalonians 1:1-5;11-12)

## E. For Love and With Money (DDD)

1. For Love and With Money (text)
2. For Love and With Money (PowerPoint)

## F. Stewardship Bible Studies

1. Firstfruits Study by Fr. Basil Aden
2. Parable of the Talents
3. From “The Prologue” and Theophylact 2

## G. Stewardship and Children

1. Introducing Stewardship to Children
2. Stewardship for Children Curriculum (4 Lessons)

## H. Stewardship on the Internet

## I. Report of the Stewardship Commission – 2010

1. Stewardship Commission Report – 2010

## 2. Sobor 2010 – A Workshop on Stewardship

### J. Moleben of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

For the Stewardship Commission,

Fr. Frederick Watson, Chair