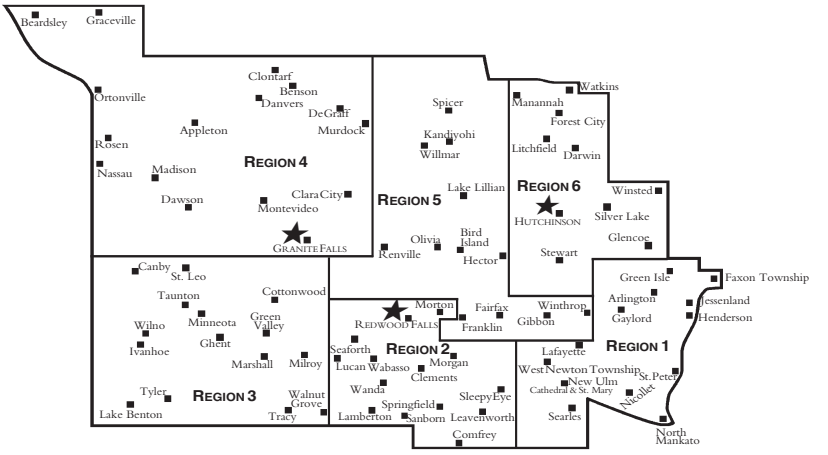
Stewardship as a way of life!

training opportunities scheduled in regions throughout diocese



by Wayne Pelzel
Director of Development

In the l980's, St. Francis parish of the Wichita, KS, area began a program that had startling results. Fr. Tom McGread, pastor of the parish, invited his parishioners to make a commitment of time, talent and treasure to God's work. As the saying goes, the rest is history.

To illustrate the impact of the program he began, that parish had an average weekly collection of $63,732 in l994. At the same time the national average for parish collections was $9,954. The average household in St. Francis parish contributed $1,471 annually which was 3.7% of their median family income. That parish's total collection in l994 was $3,314,082. Nationally, today the average Catholic gives an average of $438 which is slightly over 1% of their median family income.

Since that time numerous parishes around the country have adopted Fr. Tom McGread's message of making a commitment to God of your time, talent, and treasure. That message today is known by the name of "stewardship" and has had wonderful success in parishes internationally.

That same success can be duplicated in the Diocese of New Ulm parishes. Beginning this month, the diocesan Office of Development will offer three training sessions around the Diocese of New Ulm that will focus on stewardship. The purpose of the training will be to help turn all the parishes of the diocese into "stewardship parishes."

These training sessions will offer the opportunity for parishes to either begin teaching stewardship as a way of life, or if the process has already begun in the parish, to enrich the stewardship experience.

These regional stewardship training sessions will provide training for all pastoral leaders, full or part-time business managers, administrative and finance councils, development directors, school principals, board of education members and any others who have an interest in stewardship and it's relationship to God's plan for us.

The training sessions will feature two prominent stewardship experts in Deacon Leonard Fuller, M.A., the Executive Director of the Diocese of Winona Foundation and Deacon Justin Greene, PhD, the associate Director of Stewardship and Development for the Diocese of Winona. As Director of Development for the Diocese of New Ulm, I will also be a presenter during the training sessions.

The training sessions are free of charge. All members of the Diocese of New Ulm are encouraged to attend.

Further details and registration information and brochures are available at your local Catholic parish or register by contacting the diocesan Development Office, Sherry Kalow (507) 359-2966 at the Diocesan Pastoral Center.

Stewardship training sessions offered:

Regions 3 and 4
Thursday, October 20
St. Andrew, Granite Falls,
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

◆

Regions 2 and 5
Tuesday, October 25
St. Catherine, Redwood Falls
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

◆

Regions 1 and 6
Thursday, October 27
St. Anastasia, Hutchinson,
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.