

**Department of Stewardship Report**  
**Fifty-Third Biennial Convention**  
**Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese**  
**Miami, Florida**  
**July 23 – 30, 2017**

The overall mission of the Department of Stewardship is to support the efforts of our clergy to teach the meaning of stewardship in the context of our Orthodox Christian faith. Through these efforts, the laity becomes a network of stewards who work with their spiritual fathers to insure that all parishes and missions, and the individuals in those congregations, know, appreciate, and enact their responsibilities as stewards of the Church.

When we as individuals and as parish communities profess to be Orthodox Christians, we must first know the teachings of the faith and then we must demonstrate our commitment to those teachings by living lives consistent with the faith. In other words, we must be good stewards of the faith. All that we have in life; our time, talents, and treasure, are gifts from God. In thanksgiving for those gifts, we generously and willingly use those gifts to glorify His name.

The Department of Stewardship has evolved workshop programs and written materials that are flexible in nature. This allows for tailored responses when requests for assistance are received from parishes, missions, organizations, deaneries, diocesan level groups, or individuals.

From 1992 and until 2012, a biennial Parish Council Symposium at Antiochian Village was sponsored by the department. An outcome of these gatherings was been the development The Parish Council Guidebook and The Fifty-Two Week Member Giving Guide. These documents allow for tailored responses to be prepared when requests for assistance are received. These offerings include a variety of stand alone written materials and workshop presentations that explore stewardship from various perspectives.

In 2001, the Departments of Stewardship and Lay Ministries began a collaboration based on the similarities of their purpose and their work. A proposal has been made by these two departments to formally merge in order to take full advantage of their common goals and objectives. In anticipation of action on this request, the Stewardship Department continues to work in harmony and in collaboration with the Lay Ministry Department.

The Department of Stewardship expresses its thanks and appreciation to His Eminence, Metropolitan Joseph, for his leadership, support, and encouragement for the work of this and all Archdiocese departments. Meetings held at Antiochian Village in March of 2016 and 2017 called together all department chairs to review and evaluate their work. This initiative by Metropolitan Joseph demonstrates his commitment to keep the work of all departments at the forefront of the Archdiocese efforts to work in ways that are relevant to the clergy, laity, parishes, and missions of the Archdiocese, and to the Orthodox faithful in North America and throughout the world.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ronald Nicola, Chair  
Department of Stewardship