

Knights of the Southern Cross - Australia

“STEWARDSHIP – THE WAY OF THE DISCIPLE” **Formation Program for 2011**

**A reflection on Christian Stewardship based on the Pastoral Letter
“Stewardship – A Disciple’s Response”**

STEWARDSHIP – THE WAY OF THE DISCIPLE

For over twenty years, the Catholic Church has been gradually rediscovering the values of Christian Stewardship and its integral part in the Christian life.

In 1992 the United States Conference of Bishops issued a Pastoral Letter on Stewardship “Stewardship – A Disciple’s Response” and this has been introduced to the Church of Australia & Oceania by Bishop Peter Ingham, Bishop of Wollongong. This text provides both the means and the challenge to look at Stewardship with new eyes.

Reflection on the insights of this document during 2011 will provide a way of broadening our understanding of our part in God’s work here on earth and enable us to nurture, deepen, and celebrate our role as disciples of the Lord.

Text used for the Programme: “STEWARDSHIP A Disciple’s Response” a Pastoral Letter on Stewardship. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2002. Oceania Edition.

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KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS - AUSTRALIA

FORMATION PROGRAMME 2011

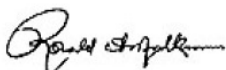
FOREWORD

In 1992 the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops published a Pastoral Letter on Stewardship called "Stewardship: A Disciple's Response". In a Preface to the recently published Oceania Edition of this Pastoral Letter, Bishop Ingham, of Wollongong, states: "This pastoral letter of the American Bishops has inspired thousands of people in parishes and dioceses around the world to embrace the biblical and theological concept of 'being God's steward'.

By 2006 two Stewardship Institutes were conducted at North Sydney at which fifteen Australian Dioceses were represented. In Brisbane in 2010 there was a workshop on Stewardship as part of the Pray 2010 Programme. Many Parishes and Dioceses are introducing the concept of Stewardship. In 2011, the Australia and New Zealand Stewardship Network will conduct four major events for formation in Stewardship. (More information follows this Foreword).

The Knights of the Southern Cross may well support this approach to counteract some of the secularising influences that affect us today. But they will only be able to give their support if they know what Stewardship is about. The National Executive has endorsed that reflection on Christian Stewardship be the topic of the Formation Programme for 2011.

I again thank Sister Anne McMillan, Coordinator of the Pastoral Ministry Office of the Ballarat Diocese, for her willingness to help us out by putting together this Programme. I pray that it will be accepted and used by members of the Knights of the Southern Cross and will give them new motivation as they continue their work to bring about the objects of the Order.

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Bishop Ronald A Mulkeams
National Chaplain.

INFORMATION REGARDING STEWARDSHIP IN AUSTRALIA

The origins of stewardship are deeply embedded in the Hebrew Scriptures and in a specific sense in the teachings of Jesus in the Gospel. It was the development of a US Bishop's Pastoral Letter: *Stewardship A Disciple's Response* in 1992 that has created the impetus for widespread adoption of stewardship principles in the pastoral life of many parishes in the USA, Canada.

Stewardship, as a way of life, has been embraced by parishes and dioceses for many years in the United States and Canada: it is now growing in the United Kingdom and Australia. Since Mr Jim Kelley spoke on Stewardship at the Inaugural Australian Catholic Administration Conference in October 2004 the momentum has intensified in dioceses and parishes across Australia and increasingly, Australian parishes are inculcating stewardship principles and practices into their way of life.

In the past few years, leaders from several Australian dioceses have attended stewardship conferences in America. Wollongong diocese hosted the first Australian National Stewardship Institutes in Sydney in 2006. Brisbane and Wollongong dioceses sponsored Stewardship Institutes in Brisbane and Sydney in 2007.

The Australian and New Zealand Stewardship Network has been established to support dioceses and parishes in Australia and New Zealand in living the stewardship way of life. Currently, representatives from Adelaide, Brisbane, Broken Bay, Cairns, Maitland/Newcastle, Perth, Rockhampton, Townsville, Wellington and Wollongong dioceses are participating. Information can be found on the Network website at <http://australianstewardship.catholic.net.au>

Upcoming National Stewardship Events for 2011

In 2011 the Australia and New Zealand Stewardship Network will conduct the following four major events with **Ed and April Laughlin** as principal speakers. Ed and April Laughlin are from Florida, USA. They have 25 years of stewardship experience and have been highly valued speakers at 500 parishes across 60 Catholic dioceses. Ed and April were honoured in 2010 with the Christian Stewardship Award from the International Catholic Stewardship Council.

Sat/Sun 27 & 28 August

STEWARDSHIP INSTITUTE in WELLINGTON, NZ

Hosted by the Catholic Archdiocese of Wellington

Fri/Sat 2 & 3 September -

STEWARDSHIP INSTITUTE in ROCKHAMPTON, Qld

Hosted by the Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton

Fri/Sat 9 & 10 September

CONFERENCE on Stewardship at Riverglenn, Indooroopilly, BRISBANE

Hosted by the Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane

Sat/Sun 17 & 18 September

STEWARDSHIP INSTITUTE at ACU Campus in BALLARAT, Vic

Hosted by the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat & Australian Catholic University

The three Institutes provide a comprehensive introduction to stewardship. The Conference will offer input and workshops for those who are already embracing a stewardship way of life. For further information contact:

Mr. Chris Ehler

Stewardship Support Committee Co-ordinator – Archdiocese of Brisbane

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FORMAT OF PRAYER SEGMENTS

(20 MINS)

1. OPENING PRAYERS

- ❖ Opening Prayers from the Order Prayers for Meetings of the Order.

2. PRAYER FOCUS

- ❖ Each segment will address a theme taken from the Order Prayers and the Objects of the Order.

3. THE WORD

- ❖ The Word of God and related reading from Church documentation is proclaimed. This is read by the discussion leader or member/s nominated by him.

4. REFLECTION

- ❖ Silent reflection on the Word of God and other readings. (5 mins.)

5. THE SHARING

- ❖ Members share their reflection on the Word and responses to discussion points. (10 mins.)

6. CLOSING PRAYERS

- ❖ Closing Prayer as in the Order Prayers for Meetings of the Order.

Points for Successful Formation Programmes

1. Choose a formation leader for the year so that someone is responsible for the facilitation of the segment.
2. These formation segments require each participant to ideally have his own copy of the Readings, therefore a copy of the Session should be provided for each member at the each meeting.
3. Abide strictly to the allotted time; not less than twenty nor more than thirty minutes.