

Living Well: Christian Practices for Everyday Life

“Participating in Community” Learning Activities

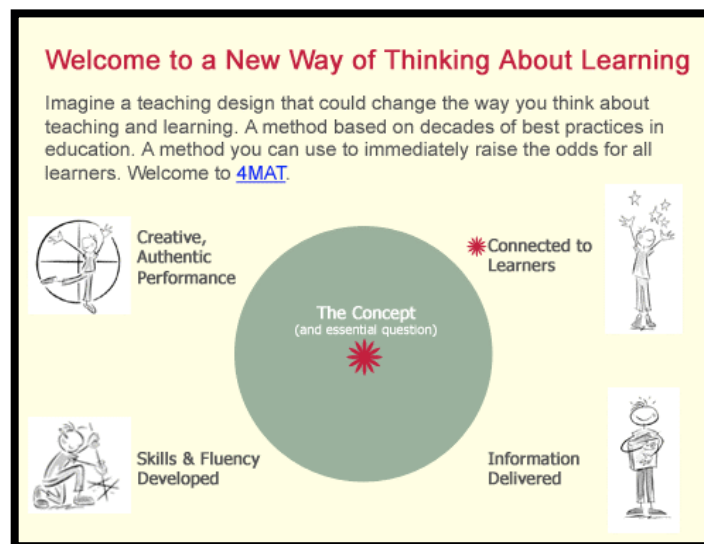
(LifelongFaith Associates)

Review the “Educating for Christian Practices Guide” for additional assistance in designing a learning plan for Christian practices.

Contents

- 1) Educating for Christian Practices Using the 4MAT Learning Process
- 2) Sample Program Design for the Christian Practice of Participating in Community
- 3) Resources for Developing the Christian Practice of Participating in Community

Educating for Christian Practices using the 4MAT Learning Process



In **Quadrant One** (Connect to Learners) the union of elements creates personal meaning, the way we question the value of new learning by connecting it to ourselves. The question to be answered is “Why?” Why is this of value to me? Why do I sense the need to know this? *This is never telling, this is something that happens, something that intrigues them (a problem to solve), or connects to them (a situation that has real meaning in their lives), or touches them in a way that links to their humanity.*

In **Quadrant Two** (Information Delivery) the union of elements creates conceptualized content, structuring knowledge into significant chunks that form the essence, the coherence, and the wonder of new ideas. The question to be answered is “What?” What is out there to be known? What do the experts know about this? What is the nature of the knowledge I am pursuing?

In **Quadrant Three** (Skill and Fluency Development) the union of elements creates usefulness (and the more immediate the better), the transferability into one's life, problem solving with the learning. The question to be answered is "How?" How does this work? Will this streamline my tasks? How will this be of use in my life? *This is where learners take the learning and do something with it, something that has meaning for them. This is where relevance is demonstrated.*

In **Quadrant Four** (Creative and Authentic Performance), the union of elements creates creative integration, the way we adapt the learning into something new and unique. The question to be answered is "What If?" If I use this in my own way, what will happen? What can I create and how will that creation expand, enhance, and maybe even transform the world I know? *The world "per-form" means to form through and that is the essence of this step. It represents the merging of the learning and the learner.*

McCarthy emphasizes that knowledge must be used. It must operate in one's life. And because all human beings are unique, we use and then integrate learning in our own inimitable, incomparable ways. What we learn is transformed into a particular use, a distinct way of doing, a matchless refinement of a method, a unique understanding. It is transformed. It becomes for us. It is in the transformation that real understanding happens.

4 MAT References

- Website: www.aboutlearning.com
- *Teaching Around the 4MAT Cycle – Designing Instructive for Diverse Learners with Diverse Learning Styles*. Bernice McCarthy and Dennis McCarthy. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press, 2006.
- *About Teaching: 4MAT in the Classroom*. Bernice McCarthy. Wauconda, IL: About Learning, 2000.
- *About Teaching Companion: The 4MAT Implementation Workbook*. Bernice McCarthy and Dennis McCarthy. Wauconda, IL: About Learning, 2003.

Examples of Methods for Each Stage of the Process

Quadrant 1. Connecting to the Learner

■ Why do learners need to know this?

- Actual case studies
- Stories (audio, video, illustrated)
- Personal storytelling
- Direct experience / field trip
- Simulated experience or game
- TV-style game show
- Interactive dialogue
- Personal reflection/journal
- Feature film segment
- Media presentation (PowerPoint): images and music
- Dramatic presentations
- Personal reflection tool/worksheet
- Quiz
- Self-assessment or inventory
- Prayer or ritual experience
- Witness presentations

Quadrant 2. Delivering Information

■ What is it that we are teaching the learners?

- Video presentation
- Audio presentation
- PowerPoint presentation with content and images/music
- Guided reading and research
- Interviewing experts
- Demonstration
- Prayer or ritual experience
- Lecture
- Panel presentation
- Study groups: read and analyze/reflect on selecting readings, and present findings in a small group or to the large group
- Project-centered learning: develop a project that involves study, creative activity, and presentation of the project
- Debate
- Inquiry-oriented discussion
- Learning tournament

Quadrant 3. Developing Skills and Fluency

■ How will the learners use it in their lives?

- Case study demonstrating how to use the information
- In-session practice activities and exercises (specific to the content of the session)
- Mentoring
- Role play / skill practice
- Field work
- Simulations
- In-field observations
- Demonstrations
- Panel presentations
- Compare and contrast activities
- Creative writing activity, e.g., learners rewrite Scripture stories or hymns in contemporary language and situations
- Presentations by learners of a project
- Creative activity: learners create an art project, song/music video, video or PowerPoint presentation, dramatic presentation, advertisement/commercial

Quadrant 4. Creative and Authentic Performance

■ What will the learners become and do as a result of the learning experience?

- Conduct a demonstration
- Write a report, article, or story describing performance to share with others
- Create action plans
- Create a photo or video documentary of practice
- Field trip / mission trip
- Participate in a church ministry (within the church or in the wider community)
- Keep a journal or log of performance efforts
- Get involved in an action learning project (e.g., service project, teaching others, leading an activity).

4MAT and the Living Well Process

Each chapter in *Living Well* is developed around five movements:

1. **Yearning** taps into our hunger for living well by addressing a basic area of human need through the real-life stories of people who seek meaning and purpose for their lives through a particular practice.

2. **Reflecting** gives you, whether individually or with your household, an opportunity to become aware of how you experience the basic human need and hunger for the Christian practice in your own life, and how you may already be living this practice.
3. **Exploring** presents the biblical teaching on the practice, how the practice addresses our basic need and hungers, and why the practice is important for living a Christian life.
4. **Living** provides you with a variety of tools – activities, ideas, and strategies – that you can use to integrate each Christian practice into your daily life.
5. **Praying** concludes the chapter by offering God thanks and praise, and asking for God’s help.

Here is an application of the 4MAT learning cycle to teaching Christian practices to a large group (families, multiple generations, or adults) using the 5-part process of each *Living Well: Christian Practices for Everyday Life* chapter.

Quadrant 1

Part 1. *Yearning: The Hunger for the Practice*

- Illustrating the hunger for the Christian practice in story, music, film, and/or current events.

Part 2. *Reflecting: Reflection on the Hunger*

- Guiding the individual or family in identifying how they see the hunger in their own lives and world.
- Helping people become aware of how they already engage in this practice, and the things that distort or hinder the practice.

Quadrant 2

Part 3. *Exploring: The Christian Practice*

- Grounding the Christian practice in the Bible by describing how the biblical story(s) deepens our understanding of the Christian practice.
- Describing what people today, and throughout history, actually do when they are engaged well in a particular practice – people or communities that live the practice with exceptional grace and skill.
- Connecting the Christian practice to human needs and hungers. Identifying how and why it is important to living a meaningful life. Describing the benefits of living the Christian practice – for the person, family, and for the community and world.

Quadrant 3

Part 4. *Living: Application of the Christian Practice to Daily Life*

- Giving people tools – activities, ideas, resources – for living the Christian practice in their daily lives – at home, at work, at school, and in the world.
- Showing people how to make the Christian practice part of everyday life.
- Guiding people in performing the Christian practice and then reflecting on it.

Quadrant 4

Part 4. *Living: Application of the Christian Practice to Daily Life*

Part 5. *Praying: Prayer for the Practice*

- Entering more deeply into the practice through prayer and reflection.
- Offering God thanks and praise, and asking for God’s help in living the practice.

Sample Program Design for the Christian Practice of Participating in Community

To illustrate how these five elements are incorporated in a learning resource, here is an outline of a large group program using the “Participating in Community” chapter from *Living Well: Christian Practices for Everyday Life*. During the session, children can use the “Participating in Community” activities in the *Living Well Children’s Workbook*.

Preparation

Materials

- The following handouts are included with this session:
 1. *Identifying Gifts and Talents*
 2. *Stewardship Ideas for Children*
 3. *Stewardship Ideas for Teens and Adults*
- Paper, pens/pencils for everyone
- 3x5 file cards (Place 15-20 files on each table. Have extras just in case people need more.)

Suggested Setting

- Organize the participants into table groups. Have a Bible on each table.

Identifying Community Witnesses

Incorporate members of your church community who are engaged in church ministries and civic and world communities into the presentation of the Christian teaching on the practice. After the first part of your presentation “Participating in the Church Community” have several church members share why and how they are engaged in the church. After the second part, “Participating in the World,” have several church members share why and how they are engaged in the civic community and in the world community. The goal of the “community witness” stories is to have people share how their faith in Jesus Christ is expressed in their engagement in the church, civic, and world communities, and how they benefit from their participation. Be sure to invite a variety a people so that people see that participation is for everyone! Invite children, teens, young adults, adults (single and married couples), parents, “empty-nest” couples, adults in later life, etc.

Presenting Information on Ways to Participate in Community

Here are three ideas that you can use alone or together to present ways that people can strengthen their involvement in community: a booklet of ideas and projects, exhibits, and a panel. You can also create a PowerPoint presentation or DVD with photos and illustrations of the variety of ways people can participate in church, civic community, and the world community. Each will take advance preparation.

Community Involvement Booklet

You can develop a booklet with ways that people can be involved in the church community (e.g., church ministries), civic community (e.g., organizations and projects), and world community (e.g.,

organizations and projects). Research your church, local organizations, and global projects on a variety of justice issues. Research websites of recognized organizations for information. You also use the ideas on the handouts, *Stewardship Ideas for Children* and *Stewardship Ideas for Teens and Adults*. For examples of national and global projects see Chapter 12, "Transforming the World," in *Living Well* and the Transforming the World learning activities online at www.lifelongfaith.com.

Display

You can organize displays/exhibits of ideas for participating in a community. Staff the displays with people representing church ministries, community organizations, and global projects. You can access national and international organizations, such as World Vision, Catholic Relief Services, Habitat for Humanity, UNICEF, and Heifer Project, via their web sites to download project ideas, pictures, and descriptions.

Panel

You can organize a panel of presenters, representing parish ministries, community organizations, and national/international projects, who speak briefly about the ways people can get involved. Instead of using organization representatives, you can invite church members who are involved with the ministry or organization to share their firsthand experience.

Session Plan

Quadrant 1. Connecting to the Learner: Participating in Community

1. Yearning—Stories of Community Engagement

Introduce the session with these words (from page 9.2 in *Living Well*):

Looking for a community to belong to? We all are; no one really wants to be alone. But when it comes to belonging to and participating in a community, we're confused. Do we have time to become involved in a community? What type of community? How can we find ways to participate meaningfully in our church, our civic community, and our world?

Share with the group the three opening stories, “You’re Telling Us to Work on Sunday,” “City on a Mission,” and “A Typical Wednesday Night,” on pages 9.2–9.4 in *Living Well*. Use a different reader for each story.

2. Reflection Activity: How Are You Participating in Community

After reading the stories ask people to share how they are currently participating in the life of the community: church, civic community, and world community. Ask people to share their responses to one question at a time. After everyone has shared, moved to the second, then third question. Display the questions on a PowerPoint presentation or on newsprint for all to see. (Note: Children can complete the “Participating in Community” worksheet on page 32 in the *Children’s Workbook*).

1. In what ways are you and your household involved in your church community throughout the year?
2. In what ways are you and your household involved in activities and projects in your civic community? How do you and your household make a positive contribution to your civic community?
3. In what ways are you and your household involved in the world community – making a positive contribution to people around the world?

3. The Benefits of Participating

Using the commentary on pages 9.5 and 9.6 in *Living Well*, develop a presentation (using PowerPoint) that explains the benefits of participating in community. Add examples from your local community to illustrate the benefits.

At table groups, invite people to share the benefits that have come to them from participating in the church community, civic community, and/or world community.

Quadrant 2. Delivering Information: The Christian Practice of Participating in Community

The Exploring section of the “Participating in Community” chapter on pages 9.7–9.10 in *Living Well* presents biblical teaching and examples in two sections: Participating in the Church Community, and Participating in the World.

Develop a presentation (using PowerPoint with photos and local examples) that explains each the biblical teaching using the Scripture readings, and presents the key points and examples. Add examples about your own church community and about people engaged in the civic community and world. Select people who will read the Scripture passages as part of your presentation.

Incorporate members of your church community who are engaged in church ministries and civic and world communities into your presentation. After the first part of your presentation “Participating in the Church Community” have several church members share why and how they are engaged in the church. After the second part, “Participating in the World,” have several church members share why and how they are engaged in the civic community and in the world community. The goal of the “community witness” stories is to have people share how their faith in Jesus Christ is expressed in their engagement in the church, civic, and world communities, and how they benefit from their participation. Be sure to invite a variety a people so that people see that participation is for everyone! Invite children, teens, young adults, adults (single and married couples), parents, “empty-nest” couples, adults in later life, etc.

Conclude your presentation and witness stories with table group discussions using the following question. Display the question on a PowerPoint presentation or on newsprint for all to see.

- What did you learn about the Christian teaching on participating in community that can be beneficial for you and your household? How were you affirmed by the biblical teaching, examples, and witness stories? How were you challenged?

Quadrant 3. Developing Skills and Fluency: Ways to Live the Christian Practice of Participating in Community

1. Identifying Gifts and Talents

Ask everyone to complete a gifts and interest inventory using the handout, *Identifying Gifts and Talents*. Families with children can do this as a family activity or children can work on the “We Participate in Community” worksheet on page 34 in the *Children’s Workbook*.

Introduce the activity by presenting the material on page 9.11 of *Living Well*.

There are tremendous benefits that come with participating deeply and meaningfully in a community – whether it’s a Christian community, your local community, or the world. Whether you are a single young adult, a newly married couple, a family with children or teens, a single adult, an “empty nest” household, or an older adult, there are lots of ways you can become more deeply involved in your church, neighborhood, and world. Let’s explore the gifts that you bring to community, and some of the ways you can utilize those gifts more fully.

The Letter of Peter reminds us: *Each one, as a good manager of God’s different gifts, must use for the good of others the special gift he has received from God.* (1 Peter 4:10)

Jean Morris Trumbauer writes: *Each of us is like a gift package from God. Our combination of gifts is unique. Not one of us has ever been replicated on this earth! Our giftedness includes our talents and abilities, styles, interests, experiences, preferences, and passions for serving in the world. Our gifts are part of an abundant web of giftedness in our faith community. These gifts were given to us so that we might minister together as partners in God’s work in the world. And our gifts are meant for us too! When we live out our gifts, we discover the joys of an abundant life.*

Begin the process of strengthening your involvement in church and community by identifying your God-given gifts and talents. Involve everyone in your household in the “gifts inventory.” Check up to a dozen things you do well. Have each member of your household do this. Feel free to add other gifts not specifically listed.

When you complete the gifts inventory move on to the inventory of ways you can be involved. Equipped with a list of your gifts and talents and those of your household, you can now start to consider the type of activities you and members of your household might want to be involved in. Take a look at the two lists below, one for the church community and one for the civic community and world. Think about which interests best match with your gifts and talents. Some activities may be more traditional, such as teaching or singing, while others may be new, such as Web ministry.

Give people time to complete the two inventories.

2. Findings Ways to Participate in Community

Present a variety of ways that people can strengthen their participation in community: church, civic, world. Here are three ideas that you can use alone or together: a booklet of ideas and projects, exhibits, and a panel. You can also create a PowerPoint presentation or DVD with photos and illustrations of the variety of ways people can participate in church, civic community, and the world community.

Booklet

You can develop a booklet with ways that people can be involved in the church community (e.g., church ministries), civic community (e.g., organizations and projects), and world community (e.g., organizations and projects). Research your church, local organizations, and global projects on a variety of justice issues. Research websites of recognized organizations for information. You also use the ideas on the handouts, *Stewardship Ideas for Children* and *Stewardship Ideas for Teens and Adults*. For examples of national and global projects see Chapter 12, “Transforming the World,” in *Living Well* and the Transforming the World learning activities online at www.lifelongfaith.com.

Exhibits

You can organize displays/exhibits of ideas for participating in a community. Staff the displays with people representing church ministries, community organizations, and global projects. You can access national and international organizations, such as World Vision, Catholic Relief Services, Habitat for Humanity, UNICEF, and Heifer Project, via their web sites to download project ideas, pictures, and descriptions.

Panel

You can organize a panel of presenters, representing parish ministries, community organizations, and national/international projects, who speak briefly speak about the ways people can get involved. Instead of using organization representatives, you can invite church members who are involved with the ministry or organization to share their firsthand experience.

Quadrant 4. Demonstrating Creative and Authentic Performance: Living the Practice of Participating in Community

1. Connecting Gifts with Ways to Participate in Community: Church, Civic Community, and World

Ask people (individuals or households) to review the gifts they identified and the potential involvements they selected on their inventory.

Using the variety of community participation ideas that you have provided in the previous activity, ask the participants to identify specific ways they can participate more fully in community. Remind people to connect what they discovered from the inventory with the variety of ideas you presented. Ask them to list their best ideas on one file card – as an individual or as a household.

Then ask people to make one or more commitments to strengthen their participation in community. Ask them to consider one commitment to their church community, one to the civic community, and one to the world community. Have them write one commitment per file card. For each idea ask them to complete a simple action plan. (Have these steps on a PowerPoint presentation or newsprint for all to see.)

1. List 2-3 actions you would like to take to implement this commitment.
2. Describe what you will do to put each action into practice, and the steps you will take to ensure that it will happen.

Give them time to complete the activity.

Ask people to share one commitment and action plan with their table group.

2. Closing Prayer

Pray together the “Prayer for Our Community and World” on page 9.16 in *Living Well* and/or the prayer below.

*Generous God,
We thank you for all the gifts you have given us.
We know that all we have received is from your hand.
Gracious and loving God, you call us to participate in the life of our communities,
 our church community
 our civic community
 our world community
Help us to always use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously.
Send the Holy Spirit to work through us, bringing your message of love to those we serve.
May we bear witness to the love of Jesus Christ in our lives every day.
We pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus' name.
Amen.*

Identifying Gifts & Talents

Each one, as a good manager of God's different gifts, must use for the good of others the special gift he has received from God. (1 Peter 4:10)

Each of us is like a gift package from God. Our combination of gifts is unique. Not one of us has ever been replicated on this earth! Our giftedness includes our talents and abilities, styles, interests, experiences, preferences, and passions for serving in the world. Our gifts are part of an abundant web of giftedness in our faith community. These gifts were given to us so that we might minister together as partners in God's work in the world. And our gifts are meant for us too! When we live out our gifts, we discover the joys of an abundant life.

(Jean Morris Trumbauer, Created and Called)

Begin the process of strengthening your involvement in church and community by identifying your God-given gifts and talents. Involve everyone in your household in the "gifts inventory."

My gifts are...

Check up to a dozen things you do well. Have each member of your household do this. Feel free to add other gifts not specifically listed. (Adapted from *Created and Called* by Jean Morris Trumbauer.)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> accounting/finances/budget | <input type="checkbox"/> mechanical work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> acting/drama | <input type="checkbox"/> mediating and problem-solving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> artwork/crafts | <input type="checkbox"/> medical/nursing care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> caring and compassion | <input type="checkbox"/> mentoring/tutoring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> carpentry/building | <input type="checkbox"/> music: instrumental or voice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> child care | <input type="checkbox"/> photography |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clerical work | <input type="checkbox"/> planning/visioning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> communication | <input type="checkbox"/> praying |
| <input type="checkbox"/> computer skills | <input type="checkbox"/> promotion/advertising |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cooking and serving food | <input type="checkbox"/> public speaking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> coordinating and organizing projects | <input type="checkbox"/> researching |
| <input type="checkbox"/> dancing | <input type="checkbox"/> sewing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> decorating | <input type="checkbox"/> social justice work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> facilitating and working with groups | <input type="checkbox"/> sound recording/audio production |
| <input type="checkbox"/> faith-sharing | <input type="checkbox"/> teaching/training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> video and video production |
| <input type="checkbox"/> gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> visiting others |
| <input type="checkbox"/> graphic design | <input type="checkbox"/> Web design |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hospitality | <input type="checkbox"/> writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> housekeeping | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> legal services | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> listening | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> maintaining buildings/grounds | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Identifying Ways to Be Involved in Church, Community, and World

Equipped with a list of your gifts and talents and those of your household, you can now start to consider the type of activities you and members of your household might want to be involved in. Take a look at the two lists below, one for the church community and one for the civic community and world. Think about which interests best match with your gifts and talents. Some activities may be more traditional, such as teaching or singing, while others may be new, such as Web ministry. (Adapted from *Created and Called* by Jean Morris Trumbauer)

I have experience or interest in these areas of involvement in the church...

Mark the three greatest areas of experience (E) with a 1, 2, and 3. Mark the three greatest areas of interest (I) with A, B, C.

E	I	Potential Involvement
_____	_____	aging
_____	_____	arts
_____	_____	children's ministry
_____	_____	consolation/grief ministry
_____	_____	communications/media
_____	_____	community outreach/service
_____	_____	data administration
_____	_____	education: children
_____	_____	education: youth
_____	_____	education: adults
_____	_____	family ministry
_____	_____	finance
_____	_____	global mission
_____	_____	health ministry
_____	_____	media ministry
_____	_____	music
_____	_____	new member welcome
_____	_____	pastoral care
_____	_____	prayer ministry
_____	_____	property management
_____	_____	recovery ministry
_____	_____	sacramental preparation
_____	_____	singles ministry
_____	_____	small faith communities
_____	_____	social justice
_____	_____	social/community life
_____	_____	spiritual growth
_____	_____	stewardship
_____	_____	visual communication
_____	_____	Web ministry/cyberministry
_____	_____	worship/liturgy
_____	_____	young adult ministry
_____	_____	youth ministry
_____	_____	other: _____
_____	_____	other: _____

I have experience or interest in these areas of involvement in the community and world...

Mark the three greatest areas of experience (E) with a 1, 2, and 3. Mark the three greatest areas of interest (I) with A, B, C.

E	I	Potential Involvement
_____	_____	abuse
_____	_____	addiction and recovery
_____	_____	the arts
_____	_____	care for and dignity of the elderly
_____	_____	disabilities
_____	_____	disaster relief
_____	_____	discrimination
_____	_____	economic/community development
_____	_____	education: children, youth
_____	_____	employment
_____	_____	environment
_____	_____	governmental and political reform
_____	_____	grief and loss
_____	_____	health care
_____	_____	homelessness
_____	_____	human rights
_____	_____	hunger
_____	_____	literacy
_____	_____	mental health
_____	_____	poverty and economic disparity
_____	_____	prisons and rehabilitation
_____	_____	violence
_____	_____	war and peace
_____	_____	other: _____
_____	_____	other: _____
_____	_____	other: _____
_____	_____	other: _____

Stewardship Ideas for Children

Time

Think of the ways you can use your time to help others.

- Taking care of your younger brother or sister
- Talking with your grandparents
- Visiting a sick friend
- Helping a friend with homework
- Doing your chores around the house

Talent

Think of the ways you can share your gifts or talents with others.

- If you a good reader, you can read to your younger brother or sister or at a child care center or to an elderly person in a nursing home.
- If you like to cook, you can bake cookies for holiday dinners for those in need.
- If you like to draw, you can teach others to draw or you can make posters and signs for parish programs.
- If you like to sing, you can join the children's choir at church.
- If you make friends easily, you can find lonely children and make them feel good.
- If you like to be outdoors, you can help a disabled or elderly neighbor with yard work.

Treasure

Even though you might not have much money, you do have a treasure. Think of the ways you can share your treasure with others.

- Saving a little of your allowance or money you make doing chores and add this to what your family is sharing with those in need.
- Donating some of your favorite books to a local child care center or a shelter for homeless families.
- Donating clothes to child who are poor or live in a shelter for homeless families.
- Recycle your family's newspapers and magazines, cans and bottles to help protect the earth.
- Collecting food from your family and neighborhood to give to food banks and soup kitchens.

(For additional ideas see: *The Catholic Kid's Guide to Stewardship*. Elizabeth Johnson. New London, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 2004.)

Stewardship Ideas for Teens and Adults

Being a Good Steward of Your Treasure

Consider This. . .

- \$.25 can feed a refugee child for a day.
- \$10 would buy a box of nails for a new house.
- \$25 would buy five pounds of seed corn in Honduras
- \$25 would buy a month's care for an orphaned child
- \$25 would buy school supply kits for two children in Africa
- \$200 (the price of a new modest TV set) would allow farmers in Peru to purchase several llamas or a woman in India can buy an income-producing sewing machine
- \$500 spent on the UNICEF child survival program saves a child's life
- \$500 (the cost of a new appliance) would give some family a heifer that would provide milk and income or two water buffalo for plowing rice fields
- \$1000 would buy all of the wallboard for a new Habitat for Humanity house
- \$2500 (the price of a family vacation) could build three adobe homes for hurricane victims in Central America

Ideas for Being a Good Steward of Your Treasure

Here are a few ideas to get you thinking about how to share your treasure:

- Give a donation to UNICEF and their efforts to meet the essential needs of poor children all around the world through education, nutrition, and health care. Go to the UNICEF web site.
- Give a donation—large or small—to Habitat for Humanity to build a home in the U.S. or another country around the world. Build a house online with Habitat's interactive tool. Donate the cost of items such as nails, shingles, and plumbing. Consider becoming a monthly donor. Go to the Habitat for Humanity web site.
- Donate money or books to Room for Read. Room to Read partners with local communities throughout the developing world to establish schools, libraries, and other educational infrastructure. Donate new, children's storybooks, ABC and 123 books, picture books for young children, hardcover books that are thick and durable, educational books that are fun - science, geography, math, world history, etc. Go to the Room to Read web site for more information.
- Protect the environment creation through "Adopt an Acre" of the Nature Conservancy and preserve the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. Adopt-A-Rainforest through Rainforest Alliance.<http://> Protect Endangered Species through the World Wildlife Fund. Go to their web sites for more information.
- Adopt a village through "My Global Village," a Catholic Relief Services project, and help a whole community build a clinic, a source of potable water, decent classrooms, farming, and so on. Go to the Global Village website at CRS to make a donation and then get updates, news, and stories about the people you are helping.
- Support one of the 56 Catholic Relief Service Projects around the world through "Gift of Hope." CRS has an online and print catalog of the projects with descriptions and the per share cost of supporting the project. Visit the Catholic Relief Services web site for more information.
- Purchase products from organizations funded by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development that produce everything from organic cheese produced by family farmers to soaps made by low-income women. Go to the CCHD web site for more information.

- Donate money to Food For The Poor to provide direct relief assistance to the poor by purchasing specifically requested materials and distributing them through the churches and charity organizations already operating in areas of need. Purchase a gift from their catalog, support a project, recycle inkjet and toner cartridges. Go to their web site for more information.
- Sponsor children and the aging through Christian Foundation for Children and Aging and connect with a poor child or aging friend at a Catholic mission site. The poor that CFCA serve suffer from malnutrition, inadequate medical care, and/or poor housing, with little chance for the children to receive an education. Go to their web site for sponsorship information.
- Purchase fair trade products through Catholic Relief Services' "Work of Human Hands," Ten Thousand Villages, SERRV, and Global Exchange that support farmers and artisans in poor communities pay for food, education, health care and housing. Fair Trade encompasses a range of goods, from agricultural products like coffee, chocolate, tea, and bananas, to handcrafts like clothing, household items, and decorative arts. Go to the web sites of the organizations and discover the products you can purchase.

Being a Good Steward of Your Time

Ideas for Being a Good Steward of Your Time

In just one or two hours per week or month, you could:

- Prepare and serve a meal at a soup kitchen or homeless shelter.
- Collect food for the local food bank.
- Collect clothes for those in need at homeless shelters and child care centers in a poor community.
- Visit the elderly at a senior citizen facility.
- Visit the homebound in the parish and/or do grocery shopping for them.
- Tutor children.
- Serve in a parish ministry by being a eucharistic minister, lector, youth leader or teacher, or serving on a leadership committee.

In just one day each year, you could

- Help the Red Cross during local emergencies.
- Work with the Special Olympics.
- Weatherize, repair, and/or paint a home for those in need. Contact your local Habitat for Humanity chapter.
- Plant trees in your community through the Global Releaf Program and National Arbor Day Foundation programs. See their web sites for more information.
- Organize a "clean-up the community day" and mobilize teams of people to clean-up litter and junk in specific areas of the community.

In one week each year, you could

- Build a house with habitat for humanity in the U.S. through a Habitat "volunteer vacation."
- Organize a craft fair featuring fair trade crafts, or create a gift catalog for your parish community and sell fair trade items. For more information go the web sites for Catholic Relief Services, Ten Thousand Villages, SERRV, and Global Exchange. Consider organizing a fair trade gift sale at Christmas or Easter or anytime throughout the year.

Being a Good Steward of Your Talent

Ideas for Being a Good Steward of Your Gifts and Talents

Here are a few ideas to get you thinking about how to share your talents:

- Use your gifts and talents in service to the elderly in your community. For example: create a network of people to drive elderly persons, do fall and spring housecleaning for the homebound, write letters for nursing home residents who can no longer write, entertain the elderly in nursing homes.
- Use your gifts and talents in service to the children in your community. For example: tutor children, teach computer skills, get involved in a recreation or an arts and crafts program, help with summer programs for children, be a Big Brother or Big Sister, coach children in sports.
- Weatherize, repair, and paint homes for those in need. Check with the local Habit for Humanity affiliate in your area.
- Use your gifts and talents in service to people with disabling conditions. For example: work with Special Olympics or programs for the developmentally-challenged, read for the blind, offer a shuttle service, make your church facility accessible for all.
- Use your gifts and talents in service to the parish community through parish ministries and programs.
- Share your time and talent, and donate goods and materials to an organization initiated and led by poor and low-income people as they empower themselves and become leaders in their communities. Visit the Catholic Campaign for Human Development web site to find local opportunities in which you might invest your energy, talent, and experience.

Resources for Developing the Christian Practice of Participating in Community

The Busy Family's Guide to Volunteering. Jenny Friedman. Beltsville, MD: Robins Lane Press, 2003.

Volunteering is an important way to cultivate compassion, gratitude, and empathy in children and to bring families together in meaningful ways. For busy parents who want to spend time with their kids while still contributing to their community, family volunteering is an opportunity to combine two commitments into one. This book is -perfect for every family because it offers flexibility – volunteer for long-term projects or one-time events. Whether you have a two-year-old or an eighteen-year-old, you'll find everything you need to know to have a fulfilling and fun volunteer experience, from finding the right opportunity for your family to answering hesitations you may have. The perfect book for families who want to do good things for their community, spend quality time together, and have fun!

Created and Called: Discovering Our Gifts for Abundant Living. Jean M. Trumbauer. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press, 1998.

True to its title, *Created and Called* emphasizes that we are co-creators with God and that each person is gifted and called to ministry. Unlike manuals with similar themes, *Created and Called* explains how our gifts are more than our most visible talents and skills: they include our interests, motivations, styles, values, hopes, and vulnerabilities. Jean Trumbauer helps us to recognize and integrate our gifts and apply them to needs in both the church and the larger community. *Created and Called* includes reflection guides, exercises, samples, and resources in each chapter,

Everybody Wants to Change the World: Practical Ideas for Social Justice. Tony Campolo and Gordon Aeschliman. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 2006,

All over the world – and in your community – people are lonely, hungry, sick, struggling to make ends meet, bitter, imprisoned, dying. Do you feel powerless to make a difference? You don't have to be helpless! From the simplest acts of kindness to more complex works of mercy, you'll find more than 100 practical ideas for compassionately responding to the needs of others. It's all here, from suggestions about working with the poor to honoring and assisting the elderly; helping immigrants assimilate and supporting the sick; respecting and serving the disabled, showing compassion to those in prison, and caring for the environment. You'll discover practical ways to begin making a difference in your community today, and helping others catch a vision for changing the world! A leader's guide makes this adaptable for group study, as well as individual reading. Jesus calls us to creatively and courageously share the good news by loving our neighbor. It's time to begin!

The Externally Focused Church. Rick Rusaw, Eric Swanson, Authors. Loveland, CO: Group Publishing, 2004.

"We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give." This quote expresses the book's thesis that "service is, and should be, the identifying mark of Christians and the church." Through community service, the church engages with its community – thus allowing the church not only to tell the gospel, but also to show it. In today's culture, passionate and relevant community service may be the most effective way to communicate the gospel. Externally focused churches are "convinced that effectiveness is not measured by what happens inside the church but rather by the impact the people of the church have on their community." The eleven chapters of this book provide clear, honest, and practical answers to why a church should be externally focused; what an externally focused church tries to accomplish; and how a church

can start or improve upon community service. The appendix lists scriptures that “reveal God’s heart for the poor, the needy, widows, orphans, and aliens” and scriptures “concerning good works and good deeds.” Each chapter begins with a brief thematic story and ends with a summary statement, discussion questions, suggested actions, and sermon ideas. Also included are examples illustrating the successes and challenges of church community service.

Growing Compassionate Kids: Helping Kids See Beyond Their Backyard. Jan Johnson. Nashville: Upper Room Books, 2001.

Open a new world of possibilities for your kids, where making a difference for others becomes a way of life! *Growing Compassionate Kids* illustrates practical everyday ways for parents to help children develop empathy and seek justice in the world. As one reviewer says, “This book is a wonderful antidote to both ‘compassion fatigue’ and the frustrations of Christian parenting in a selfish society.” Jan Johnson, a well-known author who deals with Christian spirituality, helps moms and dads and grandparents learn to incorporate social outreach and mission into the often-hectic everyday realities of family life. When children see these living examples, they’ll grow to be disciples of Christ and learn to consider others above self. “Teaching kids to care for people is one more way to teach our children to love God,” writes the author. “A child growing in empathy is moving from isolation to connection, from self-centeredness to others-awareness, from hostility to hospitality.” Couldn’t the world use more people like that? There’s no greater legacy we could leave to our kids and to humankind. Questions for reflection plus personal and family devotions are included in each chapter.

Our Day to End Poverty: 24 Ways You Can Make a Difference. Shannon Daley-Harris, Jeffrey Keenan, Karen Speerstra. San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2007.

This book is organized around the typical activities of an ordinary 24-hour day and then showing how to see them as part of the path out of poverty. For example, making breakfast, taking the kids to school, and checking email are connected to addressing world hunger, making education available to all, and ensuring access to appropriate technology. The authors presents hundreds of steps we can take to combat poverty and all its attendant evils. The chapters are designed to animate our ethical action behind the eight United Nations Millennium Development Goals, which all deal with poverty-related problems. *Our Day to End Poverty* is divided into sections on morning, afternoon, and evening. Here are the topics covered in evening: Extend Hospitality and Create Community, Spread Literacy, Improve Transportation Options, Travel with a Purpose, Save the Lives of Mothers and Newborns, Improve Access to Clean Water, Increase International Development Aid, and Speak Up for Justice: More Thoughts on Advocacy.

The Power of Serving Others: You Can Start Where You Are. Gary Morsch and Dean Nelson. San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2006.

Helping others can give our lives a sense of meaning and purpose that nothing else can. And yet many of us think that serving others just isn’t an option. We think we don’t have the time. We don’t have the skills. We don’t have the resources. We don’t know where to start. The problems of the world are just too big for us to possibly make a difference. In *The Power of Serving Others*, Gary Morsch and Dean Nelson show that everybody has something to contribute and that our ability to transform our lives by transforming the lives of others is within our reach. Offering step-by-step advice, they address the common mental blocks that keep many of us from discovering the joy and power of serving others, and they will teach you how to establish meaning through daily service. Drawing on their own experiences in places like Calcutta, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Tanzania, and right here in the United States, and featuring moving personal stories from people ranging from a former Black Panther Party member to Mother Teresa, Morsch and Nelson show how people from all walks of life have found a deep

sense of fulfillment through simple gestures of service. Many of the problems the people in this book are helping with--reconstruction in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the Asian tsunami, combating AIDS in Africa, healing the wounds of the Balkan civil war – seem utterly daunting. What can you possibly do in the face of such need? *The Power of Serving Others* shows that no matter who you are – regardless of your age, expertise, or position – you can enrich your own life and the lives of others through service.

Sharing the Ministry: A Practical Guide for Transforming Volunteers into Ministers. Jean M. Trumbauer. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press, 1999.

Jean Trumbauer presents a new paradigm of volunteer ministry based on the assumptions that each person is uniquely gifted for ministry, that church ministry is shared, and that staff and lay leaders are to help identify, develop, use, and support the gifts of all members. After explaining the shared ministry systems model, Trumbauer explores the model's processes: planning, discovering gifts, designing, recruiting, interviewing, matching, training, supervising, supporting, evaluating, and managing data. *Sharing the Ministry* includes reflection exercises, sample models, and further resources listed in each chapter. Readers may also purchase "personal reflection guides" that facilitate gifts discernment.

Teaching Kids to Care and Share: 300+ Mission and Service Ideas for Children. Jolene L. Roehlkepartain. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000.

This volume provides over 300 inventive, hands-on activities that involve children in service to one another, their churches and local communities, and the world. Within these pages, children's workers and leaders will find short and long-term active service/learning opportunities that encourage the youngest members of their congregation to follow Jesus' example of living their faith by caring for others. The book features: lively, age-appropriate projects and activities for 3- to 5-year-olds, 6- to 9-year-olds, and 10- to 12-year-olds; guidance for working with children of different ages and abilities; ready-to-use reproducible pages and a Scripture and topic index; and contact information for numerous national and international service organizations and programs that work with and relate to children