

Acknowledging Contributions

&

Highlighting Meaningful Results

“Therefore, my beloved brethren,
be steadfast, immovable, always
abounding in the work of the Lord,
knowing that your labor is not
vain in the Lord”

1 Cor. 15:58



Contributions come in many forms...

Sharing our Gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure that are on loan to us from God back to the church.

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”

James 1:17

Time Examples

Planning/Meeting/Evaluating/Reporting

Listening/Visiting/Caring/Sharing

Being genuinely present

Ministry/Board/Festival Activities

Baking the Prosforo

Being on the church grounds is not contributing your time if your time is not being redeemed in a positive way

Talent Examples

Singing/Chanting/Reading/Praying

Teaching/Mentoring/Counseling

Cooking/Sewing/Handiwork

Painting/Plumbing/Electrical/Maintenance

Gardening/Cleaning

Bookkeeping/Investing/Purchasing

Managing/Office

Driving

Nursing/Caring/Medical/Dental

Treasure or Alms Giving Examples

- Monetary donations
- Food Bank donations
- Items for the Troops or the Homeless
- Items for Auctions or Resale
- Paying for time of others
- Materials needed to produce handmade items

“... fasting, vigils, prayer, psalmody, acts of charity and hospitality are by nature good. But when performed for the sake of self-esteem they are not good. In everything we do, God searches out our purpose to see whether we do it for Him or for some other motive . . . quite clearly He bestows blessings only when something is done for the right purpose. For God’s judgment looks not at the actions, but at the purpose behind them.”

Acknowledging Contributions IS important for...

- Communication and Connection
- Building community
- Developing authentic humility
- Rewarding effort
- Understanding how community functions
- Celebrating what we have done well

Acknowledging Contributions Is NOT About...

- Bragging
- Focusing on treasure
- Developing ownership
- Being the boss
- You

Remember the Widow's Mite

- Acknowledge all contributions big and small equally.
- She was all in—

it is not what we do or give but what we do in relation to what we are able and if we do it from the heart.

“So He said, ‘Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; for all of these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had.’” — Luke 21:3-4



Acknowledging Contributions Activity

In small groups, take a moment to discuss Avenues for Acknowledging Contributions

- Think about the how the parish council and ministry leaders acknowledge the stewards, priest, and each other.
- Think about how information should be obtained from the stewards to ministry leaders and the parish council.

Avenues for Acknowledging Contributions

Informal

- Public
- Private

Formal

- Public
- Private

Informal Avenues Pros and Cons

Informal Avenues Pros:

- May be spontaneous
- May be initiated by anyone in parish
- Come from the heart

Informal Avenues Cons:

- May be given inconsistently
- May lead to social clicks
- May be related to popularity not contribution

Formal Avenues Pros and Cons

Formal Avenues Pros:

- Should be well thought out
- Consistent Approach

Formal Avenues Cons:

- May become burdensome and resistant to change
- Can be sought after

Private vs Public Acknowledgement

This is a challenge to balance a desire for consistency and the personality of the person you wish to Acknowledge

Publicly

- Focus on good work not focus on individuals
- Success of the community
- Address Process, Barriers overcome and Outcomes

Privately

- Contact individuals who participate in all levels
- May be seen as more personal and therefor for some people more gratifying
- May be a better choice for shy and/or humble parishioners/leaders

Avenues for Acknowledging Contributions

- Thank you notes
- Social media for (flicker photo share account, YouTube video channel, blog, electronic newsletter, twitter for Q and A, etc.)
- Website and emails
- Bulletin boards, flyers, bulletins, newsletters
- Open meetings, General Assemblies, Community Listening Sessions and Coffee Hour Activities
- Ministry meetings and Council of Ministries
- Committee and Board meetings
- Showing up for and participating in events

Avenues for obtaining information about Contributions

- Social media for (flicker photo share account, YouTube video channel, blog, electronic newsletter, twitter for Q and A, etc.)
- Open meetings, General Assemblies, Community Listening Sessions and Coffee Hour Activities
- Ministry meetings and Council of Ministries
- Committee and Board meetings
- Online and downloadable fillable feedback forms (with categories), Surveys
- Showing up for and participating in events

Challenges with Acknowledging Contributions

- Issues of humility or pride----vision of how to be.....
- Including everyone and all contributions of time, talent, treasure
- Be careful not to build resentment
- Balancing events
- Everyone has different needs for acknowledgment
- Is it ever reasonable to have nominations (or

Guard Against Living Works Becoming Dead Works

- Living works “deeds which are both good in themselves and done for a good purpose: to glorify God.”
- Dead works are both works which are inherently evil as well as “good works-done for the wrong reasons...works which are good in themselves.... but are done to call attention to oneself or to gain standing in the community. Selfish motivation turns good works to dead works.

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