

A BRIEF EXPLANATION
WHY *STEWARDS OF HOPE*? WHAT'S THE PURPOSE?
NOVEMBER 2010

- The *Stewards of Hope Pastoral Plan* exists to nourish and grow the Catholic faith, rooted since 1887 in the rich soil of north central and northwest Kansas. This Plan will guide the parishes of the Diocese of Salina in living out their mission as vibrant Christian communities.
- In the *Stewards of Hope Pastoral Plan*, Bishop Coakley challenges Catholics to become everyday saints, people whose thoughts and actions--in church, at home, at work, in ordinary activities--reflect their honest Christian commitment. He invites us to be vital members of the Catholic community, and to spread the Gospel by the example of our lives.
- The Pastoral Plan is a sort of map that shows how to reach these goals. It describes how individual Catholics, and whole parish communities, can set out on a great spiritual journey under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- *Stewards of Hope* has 13 sections in all. The most important are the first four sections that we will be dealing with in 2011. They lay the foundation.
- The first section of *Stewards of Hope* is called "The Universal Call to Holiness." Our spiritual journey begins when we say "yes" to God's call, when we decide "Yes, we can become better Catholics and lead holier lives." Section 2 is about stewardship, the grateful response of Christian disciples who share their gifts of time, talent and treasure in love of God and neighbor. Section 3 is about worship, keeping the Lord's Day holy. Section 4 is about evangelization, spreading the Gospel by word and witness.
- The other parts of *Stewards of Hope*, which will concern us in 2012, 2013 and 2014, deal with more specific matters such as religious education; defending human life; ministry to youth and young adults; and training priests, religious and lay leaders. Their success depends on the depth of our Christian commitment.
- Besides these idealistic reasons, there are pragmatic reasons for adopting the *Stewards of Hope Pastoral Plan*. Many of our parishes are getting smaller and more isolated. Our priests are getting older. American culture is becoming more secular, less sympathetic to the Church and the Catholic way of life. *Stewards of Hope* presents an opportunity for us to pull together, to organize our parishes into groups in order to strengthen them, to create a real unity in our Diocese—in short, to shake off the rust and get moving.
- Bishop Coakley is fond of saying "We're all in this together!" He also talks about a future for Catholics of hope and achievement. That's what *Stewards of Hope* is all about: looking ahead and moving ahead.