

Sharing our stories – Making a new start

“Behold I am doing a new thing...” (Reference ?)

Individual Reflection (5 minutes)

Think of a time when you started something new...

It could be a new job, retirement, a new love, a new baby or grandchild, a move to a new home...

It could have been your choice – started and motivated by you

It could have been the result of something happening to you, something outside your control or that you didn't see coming

It could be a new opportunity, something to gain OR it could be because of a loss, bereavement

-  *What happened?*
-  *Make a list of some of the things you had to do in order to begin this new thing?*
-  *What was this experience like?*
-  *Did you receive any gifts or help during this time? (i.e. gifts of advice, time, money, help from people who had skills or talents you needed, other?) What was this like? What difference did these gifts or this help make?*
-  *What about investments you needed to make – of time, money, new skills, energy? What was this like? What difference did these investments make?*

In groups of 2 or 3 (15 minutes)

Share your stories. (Stories are important to making ideas real.) How does what you're describing connect with stewardship? (Use of time, ability, money?) (Stewardship definition: All that we do, with all that we have, all of the time.)

In plenary (15 minutes)

Ask the participants to share their individual stories and reflections with the large group.

Discuss as a large group:

- What resources were necessary to start something new? What are the effects of stewardship on our lives?
- How might you use this activity in your parish?

This process we go through to start something new is similar to what a parish goes through when it decides to do something new. Can you see some connections?