

**St. Catherine of Genoa
Stewardship Commission Meeting
February 19, 2007**

Those present included Fr. Tim Siegel, Jill Hansen, Betty Burke, Wendy Engles and Beth Gehringer.

Fr. Siegel opened with a prayer.

We discussed Chapter 3 in “What Do I Own and What Owns Me-A Spirituality of Stewardship.” We discussed the theme of “A Lifestyle That Reflects What We Believe”. Stewardship involves such a simple theme of daily living. It is a call to conversion as a community. We strive to make this call to holiness a habit; a habit that allows us to be an example to others in our daily lives.

Discussion of Diocesan Stewardship Appeal this spring.

Jill mentioned the several places holding the Diocesan/Deanery meetings to discuss the upcoming appeal. We decided to attend the meeting at St. Rita’s in Rockford on March 22nd. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. We will meet at church at 6 p.m. and get something to eat before leaving.

Our Diocesan Stewardship Appeal will be held the weekend of May 5th and 6th. We will announce it the weekend before.

There are about 25 families that haven’t made any payments or are behind on payments from last year’s appeal. We are \$5,000 short of our goal as of December 31, 2006. 31%-32% of parishioners have made a pledge last year. What can we do to encourage those who haven’t pledged or haven’t paid towards their pledge? We will send out letters to those that haven’t pledged or made payments toward their pledge. Through these letters we will emphasize how this will be an opportunity to help others and remind these parishioners that any money not received will be taken from parish funds. We may want to personalize the letter with the amount pledged and include a self-addressed envelope for easier return. The shortfall amount is due to the diocese by the end of March.

Stewardship in Liturgy and Homilies.

Let’s add stewardship themes in the intentions read at mass each week.

The paragraph at the bottom of page 20 from the stewardship book we are studying would be a good addition to a homily sometime. It reads:

“Stewardship should guide our choices: about what we do on the weekend; about the books we read and the movies we see; about how we celebrate Christmas; about how we dispose of our trash; about how we share ourselves and our material possessions with others; about how much we drink; about relationships and sex; and, yes, about how much we contribute to the Sunday collection and the Annual Bishop’s Appeal. A commitment to stewardship as a way of life should have an impact on everything we choose to do – no exceptions. This is not just another gimmick to raise funds or encourage volunteerism. It is a radical re-thinking of our everyday lives based on fundamental principles of faith and spirituality.”

Give any ideas of stewardships to Father. These can be articles we find, bible verses or examples of living stewardship. He will try to incorporate these in his homilies o stewardship.

Kids Offerings

The commission looked at a few different designs of envelopes for children to use in their monetary offerings at mass. We decided on an envelope that had a design with the phrase “I feel good when I thank God” on one side and a place on the back for children to write how they used their time and talent this week. The envelopes will be undated and unnumbered. We would order enough envelopes for all the children in

religious education. There are 290 children in religious education so the cost would come out to about \$1.00 per child. The cost will be \$300-\$350 per year. Alaisa wants to start introducing contribution envelopes to the students in April. We will wait until the next school year begins to start this permanently

Louisville Stewardship Convention

The convention takes place June 27-June 29. Father, Jill and Beth will attend. We may ask Bob Pfundstein from the Diocesan Office to attend with us.

Life Line Screening

Our sponsorship of this event would be a good stewardship activity involving the whole community. We will ask Lisa Buczkowski if she would be willing to coordinate this for the parish. We may want to contact Trinity Lutheran Church to see how successful it was for them. We should put an event like this in the Observer to advertise it. Lisa is also interested in having a blood pressure check after mass some time.

Wendy would like to request some time at mass to discuss the prayer chain. We should do this during announcements sometime during lent.

All stewardship commission meetings are held every third Monday of the month.

Father closed the meeting with prayer.

Submitted by,
Beth Gehringer, Secretary