

**St. Catherine of Genoa
Stewardship Commission Meeting
March 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 4 in “What Do I Own and What Owns Me-A Spirituality of Stewardship.” We discussed the theme of “Mature Discipleship”. Mature disciples make a conscious, firm decision carried out in action to be followers of Jesus Christ, no matter what the cost to themselves. We talked about how we are more focused on Christ as we get older and how we continue to grow into mature discipleship.

Recruiting Lay Witnesses for Diocesan Stewardship Program (DSP)

Jill handed out a list of all the diocesan offices that receive funding from DSP. We would like to ask a representative from one of these offices to speak during DSP pledge weekend. This witness will educate parishioners about where the money goes that they pledge to DSP. Catholic Charities, Seminarian Education/Vocations Office, Family Life and Youth/Young Adult Ministries were among several offices discussed. Father will try to contact the offices to see if we can have someone come out to the parish.

Diocesan Stewardship Planning

Jill distributed a calendar with important dates for the DSP this spring. We have one stewardship commission meeting (April 16th) before the DSP weekend in May. We discussed the parish goal and suggested gift amounts. Should we consider increasing the parish goal to make up the short fall for the past couple of years? We think our parish goal will be \$32,000. After much discussion it was determined that we will announce our parish goal when it is received from the diocese and ask parishioners to pledge as much as they can. Any money received beyond our goal will be returned to the parish. A letter will be sent out to all parishioners announcing DSP, our parish goal and a suggested gift amount the week of April 23rd. We will indicate in this letter that we have not met our goal the past couple of years. Announcement weekend is April 28th and 29th. Our lay witness will speak at all masses this weekend. DSP pledge weekend is May 5th and 6th. Father will speak about the parish goal as pledge cards are completed during mass. We'll need to determine who will review the pledge cards after they are submitted. A “thank you” will be sent to all who made a pledge for DSP. We will want to communicate with all those active parishioners that haven't pledged by the end of May. The diocese will be contacting all parishioners that haven't pledged during the summer. We, as a parish, will want to contact active parishioners that haven't submitted a pledge, again, in October.

We are reminded to submit stewardship items to Father for use in homilies and stewardship education.

Father, Jill, Beth and Linda will be attending the stewardship conference in Louisville this summer.

Father, Jill, Beth, Linda and Wendy will attend the Diocesan Stewardship meeting in Rockford on March 22nd.

Father closed the meeting with prayer.

Next meeting is April 16, 2007.

Submitted by,
Beth Gehringer, Secretary