

**St. Catherine of Genoa  
Stewardship Commission Meeting  
April 16, 2007**

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

Father opened the meeting with a prayer asking for peace in our world as we mourn the deaths of the students and faculty at Virginia Tech University.

We discussed Chapter 5 of "What Do I Own and What Owns Me-A Spirituality of Stewardship." We discussed the theme of "No Quick Fix". The answer to stewardship is not a quick fix but takes an entire lifetime to come to fruition. This goes against everything in our culture; we want things to happen now. "This is the long, hard road the bishops chose when they decided to make a long-term commitment to teaching stewardship as a way of life." (p. 32)

**Lay witness for Diocesan Stewardship Program (DSP) - update**

Dale Jurs volunteered to speak as a witness on treasure. We'll have her speak in the fall when we do the treasure pledge for the parish.

Father made arrangements for Matthew Schwartz (Diocesan Youth Director) to speak at the announcement weekend to introduce DSP. We are very excited about having him speak about youth ministry. He will be helping us restart our youth ministry program here at the parish. He will show how the money pledged to DSP will help us specifically at St. Catherine's.

**Diocesan Stewardship Planning**

Father passed out a rough draft of the letter to be sent out before announcement weekend of April 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Our parish goal is \$31,018. He referenced the suggested increased parish goal (\$34,120) but didn't explicitly state that would be our goal.

We will not be showing the DSP video provided by the Diocese. We'll include the DSP brochure in the bulletin. Matt Schwartz will present a witness talk instead. Father will mention that we will be using any excess funds to help offset costs for the elevator to make the parish hall handicapped accessible. Emphasis will also be placed on the fact that any shortfalls in pledges/payments will have to be made up by the parish. The DSP pledge cards will be distributed by the ushers after the homily at all masses on May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The cards and pens will be ready in the back of the church. Father will walk us through the completion of the card. The ushers will then collect the cards. Linda, Beth, Jill, and, possibly, Wendy will meet at 6 p.m. on May 9<sup>th</sup> to tally the pledge cards.

At the next meeting we will discuss thanking those that pledged and what our next steps will be.

**Children's Offering Envelopes**

Alaisa was disappointed with the response to the children's envelopes. Some religious ed teachers have not distributed the envelopes. Approximately \$5-\$20 per week has been contributed. After discussion it was decided that we will choose two different styles of envelopes (one for the younger children grades K-5 and another for grades 6 and up). Wendy will investigate different designs and we'll discuss it and make a decision at the next meeting. We'd like to be ready for the new school year in the fall.

Father closed the meeting with a prayer.

The next stewardship commission meeting is May 21, 2007.

Submitted by,  
Beth Gehringer, Secretary