

**St. Catherine of Genoa
Stewardship Commission Meeting
September 11, 2007**

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

We began the meeting with a stewardship prayer service in which we all participated.

We discussed Chapter 7 of "What Do I Own and What Owns Me-A Spirituality of Stewardship." We discussed the theme of "What do I own and what owns me?" We talked about the material and spiritual gifts we have received from God and if we have truly surrendered our life (and everything we possess) to God.

Diocesan Stewardship Program results

We will be thanking the parish for Diocesan Stewardship Program results in the newsletter. We will reach more people than if we just announce it in the bulletin. Our pledges far exceeded our expectations this year. We will encourage everyone that pledges to follow through with paying their pledge.

Fr. Budden's Talk

Fr. Budden spoke to all parish leaders in August in an effort to energize and prepare us for fall and a new year of activities. Father discussed how we could unify our parish; especially through our participation in the mass. The commission spent time discussing the meaning of unity and how we could help in achieving this. We believe the expanded programs offered at our parish have unified us. How we worship and minister to each other builds unity in the parish.

2007-08 Goals

The commission discussed several ideas that we want to pursue during the next year. These will be discussed at later stewardship commission meetings.

- Organize an appreciation event to thank all parishioners that have helped out during the past year. It could be BBQ next spring or early summer. This would be a good community building event.
- The stewardship commission members will spearhead a new program (Seven Steps to Financial Freedom). We may offer this program to the rest of the parish. This program highlights the doctrine of the faith and promotes healthier attitudes towards using our resources.
- We'd like to continue finding lay witnesses to promote time, talent and treasure this fall during our annual pledge appeals.
- Promote the eight characteristics of stewardship. We, as a parish, will look at tithing to give back to others a portion of what we have received. We could begin to set aside \$100-200 per month for this purpose.
- We want to promote the stewardship of the Sabbath. We'd like to come up with a program to help us keep Sunday holy.
- Offer a wills seminar. We could ask Greg Urban from the diocese to make a presentation.

Time, Talent and Treasure Appeal

We discussed again the possibility of moving the time, talent and treasure appeal to the spring. This way it would coincide with the diocesan appeal. It would be too hectic with Lent, Easter, First Communion and other end of the year school activities. It was decided to keep the time, talent and treasure appeal in the fall. Since the process has worked well the past two years, there is no need to make substantial changes. This way any new liturgical ministers can be trained in January and begin working in April. We can tweak the schedule this fall and eliminate a week so the process doesn't take quite as long. Instead of saying the stewardship prayer at mass every week during the appeal, we'll send the prayer home with Father's letter.

We'll be using the diocesan stewardship theme of "Living Simply, Giving Simply". The diocese provided flyers for our use. These flyers will go out in Father's letter introducing the time, talent and treasure appeal. The commission discussed using the diocesan treasure pledge card or our own from last year. It was decided to use our treasure pledge card but incorporate the diocesan colors and theme on the card.

Wendy volunteered to be the lay witness for the Time and Talent pledge weekend. Father will contact Dale Jurs about speaking as a lay witness for the treasure pledge weekend. Wendy and Dale would speak at all three masses.

We'll be updating the ministry booklet. We need to add new ministries to the booklet (making lap warmers, cemetery worker, crafters). The diocesan theme and colors will be added to the booklet as well.

Jill passed around the stewardship flyer that will be placed in the bulletin each month.

The next stewardship commission meeting is October 2, 2007. Regular meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of the month.

Submitted by,
Beth Gehringer, Secretary