

**St. Catherine of Genoa  
Stewardship Commission Meeting  
January 8, 2008**

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

We began the meeting by reading Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 which is the reading for January 13<sup>th</sup>. We discussed some of the ideas presented in this reading.

We discussed Chapter 10 in "What Do I Own and What Owns Me-A Spirituality of Stewardship." We discussed the theme of "A Lifestyle of Sharing". We talked about whether we are willing to give everything we have to God. We need to be more generous with all God's gifts. If we focus on the commitment to stewardship and stewardship influences how we live, then increased giving will result.

### **Time and Talent Follow-up and Evaluation**

We discussed the results from the Time and Talent pledge weekend. This past fall there was a 17% decrease in the number of ministries checked on the pledge card. But we saw a 13% increase in the number of people who had signed up for a ministry. Our total membership increased by 7%. It's great to see more people helping with ministries when there was a smaller increase in members from the previous year. Less people signed up to help work at parish hospitality events and donate food. Are we not calling people who signed up? We need to be sure to use the people that volunteer.

We discussed how we may want to do things next year to get ready for Time and Talent pledge weekend. Should we focus on contacting those parishioners who haven't signed up (and not contact others who have signed up)? Maybe we should do something after Time and Talent pledge weekend to remind people who haven't signed up. What if we make a statement every month at mass asking for volunteers? If we did this we would be signing people up all year. Training volunteers may be a problem. Next year we may want to emphasize getting involved in something new. Would it help to call parishioners and personally asking if they will help out?

### **Parish Tithing to the Needy**

We, as a parish, should be a stewardship parish in giving to others in need. We have budgeted 1% of our income (\$2,411 for the year) to be distributed to others. \$1,279.00 is now available. How should we select who to help and how should the money be distributed? We discussed giving money to the food pantry, the veteran's home or a family in need that we are aware of. What about giving money or resources to help a needy parish in Aurora? We could donate supplies or our time to help with things that need to be taken care of at their building. Father will contact Fr. Camacho and invite him to the next meeting.

### **Reschedule Treasure Process**

In November it was decided to postpone the scheduled treasure appeal until next year. Do we want to try to hold the treasure appeal in the spring (before or after Diocesan Stewardship Program)? We have a lot of the treasure pledge cards printed that had the stewardship logo on it. We wouldn't be able to use these cards next fall because the theme will be different. The Capital Campaign for the elevator and Diocesan Stewardship Program are going very well. We don't want to ask for another financial pledge at this time. It may not be as successful since parishioners had already pledged to both programs. After some discussion it was decided to wait until next fall to ask for a weekly treasure pledge to the parish.

We do want to keep the treasure aspect of stewardship in the forefront of everyone's mind until next fall. We may want to put more financial stewardship details in the bulletin. We could show a graph that indicates where we are financially and compare it to our budget. We should talk with the Finance Council to get their ideas on how we might present this in the bulletin.

## **Stewardship of the Sabbath**

A couple of us that went to the stewardship conference in Louisville attended a workshop on how to keep Sundays holy. A presentation given was on what parishes could do to promote good stewardship on Sunday, the day the Lord has commanded us to keep holy. We talked about maybe putting something together on a Sunday to help the parish "Reclaim Sunday" as a day of rest. We could organize a mini retreat or a day of reflection that would include prayer and witness talks about what we can do to keep the Sabbath holy. It would be a great way to build parish life; to show how our faith should be a priority.

We may want to start the activity with a meal; possibly after the 10:30 mass. Father will speak with Trish Thibault and Tom and Wendy Stratton to see if they may be interested in speaking at the event about what they do to make Sunday special. This may be a great Lenten activity. After discussing possible dates it was decided to make this an Easter event. April 6<sup>th</sup> may be a good day to hold this activity. This will give us time to plan.

Father closed the meeting with prayer.

Next meeting is February 12, 2008. The following items from this month's agenda will be discussed at the next meeting: Appreciation event, Wills Seminar, 8 Characteristics of a Stewardship Parish and the Children's Essay Contest.

Submitted by,  
Beth Gehringer, Secretary