

**St. Catherine of Genoa
Stewardship Commission Meeting
March 11, 2008**

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

Father opened the meeting with a prayer.

We discussed the final chapter, Chapter 11, in “What Do I Own and What Owns Me-A Spirituality of Stewardship.” We discussed our thoughts on stewardship. Linda shared a poem she wrote about stewardship.

Diocesan Stewardship Planning

We have this meeting and the April 8th meeting to discuss and plan for the Diocesan Stewardship Program (DSP) pledge weekend. We will be utilizing the in-church method for our parishes’ pledge drive. Father will be sending a letter out to parishioners introducing diocesan stewardship before the April 19th and 20th masses. During all the masses on April 26th and 27th we will have lay witnesses speak about the importance of DSP. Pledge weekend is May 3rd and 4th. Last year our goal was \$31,018 and we raised \$34,060. We went over our goal by \$3,300. This extra money will go towards the elevator project. Our diocesan goal this year is \$30,470; which is a decrease from last year. We should set our parish goal 10% higher than the diocese. An extra 10% comes to \$33,450. We’ll want to decide what to do with the extra money we raise. We could update the kitchen or bathrooms in the parish hall.

We discussed ways that we can get more participation in pledging this year. We’d like to have at least 40% of active families make a pledge. Last year we ended up with 44% of families participating.

We talked about offering incentives to those that make a pledge (or an increased pledge) this year. Items we could offer could be a copy of the diocesan history book, a canvas tote, coffee mug, a rosary or the booklet: “The Rosary of John Paul II-the 20 mysteries”. It was determined that we would not have enough time to organize something like this at this time.

Recruit Lay Witnesses for Diocesan Stewardship Appeal

We reviewed the Diocesan Stewardship Budget to determine what areas we wanted to emphasize to the parish for the appeal this year. We looked at areas that we could emphasize that need our help and would we could show how it relates to us here in the parish. Several areas of interest we discussed were Catholic Charities, Respect Life, Tribunal, Seminarian Education, Ministry Formation and Family Life. It was decided to focus on Family Life and the Tribunal. We will contact the diocese to see if we can get someone from the Family Life office and the Tribunal to speak as lay witnesses at mass. We can have Ann Sanders speak some time on Respect Life since she is the Parish Respect Life Coordinator.

Parish Tithing to the Needy

The February meeting was set up to have the pastor from a needy parish in Aurora speak to us on some of their needs that we may be able to help with. The meeting was cancelled because of the snow. Since that time Father discovered another parish in Aurora that may need our help even more. After discussion it was decided to invite the pastor from St. Mary’s in Aurora to speak at our May 13th stewardship commission meeting.

Stewardship of the Sabbath – This event has been cancelled.

Wills Seminar

We decided to host a wills seminar again this year and invite Greg Urban from the diocese to lead it.

Children's Essay Contest

Jill talked to Alaisa about bringing up the idea of a children's essay contest to the religious education teachers at the teachers meeting in March. We'd like to hold the contest before the end of the school year. The topic would be: "What is the greatest gift God has given me and how do I use that gift?" We'd limit the essay to 500 words and allow the lower grade students to draw a picture in lieu of an essay. This activity would highlight the theme of stewardship. Jill and Alaisa will discuss and determine the prizes to be awarded.

Children's Stewardship Envelopes – Jill will order envelopes for next year.

Appreciation Event

We discussed possible activities to thank all in the parish that performed any kind of service to the parish. We have \$850 in the budget to spend on this. We talked about possibly having balloons and cake or a pot-luck meal during the spring. Jill will talk to other parishes to see what they have done. Brainstorm about this over the next month and bring ideas to the next meeting. Was there anything we heard about at the stewardship conference last year that may be appropriate?

The next meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2008.

The diocesan stewardship meeting for parishes is scheduled for March 27th in West Dundee. Jill, Linda, Beth and Father will meet for 5:30 p.m. mass and then leave from church.

Father closed with a prayer.

Submitted by
Beth Gehringer, Secretary