

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

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

We opened the meeting with the readings from the 4th Sunday of Easter.

We discussed the April stewardship flyer "Grace in Action." The topic was what parishes and parishioners can do to help with the stewardship of our environment. We shared our ideas about what we, at St. Catherine's, could do to help with the stewardship of our earth. We decided to begin including environmental tips in the bulletin, replace parish lights with energy efficient bulbs and sell canvas shopping bags with an environmental stewardship slogan and St. Catherine's name/logo on them. Linda will help Jill gather environmental tips for the bulletin, Wendy and Father will work on replacing light bulbs around the church and Jill and Beth will work on coming up with a logo and finding canvas bags to sell.

Diocesan Stewardship Planning

We had decided on announcing Diocesan Stewardship on April 25th & 26th and having the pledge weekend May 3rd and 4th. The feast of the Ascension would also be celebrated during the pledge weekend. Father's parents are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary the weekend of April 25-26 and Father will not be here. He will make arrangements for another priest to say mass this weekend. Should we move up the announcement and pledge weekend to the week prior? We had planned on having Don Gramer come and speak at the announcement weekend. Should we see if Don can come speak on April 19-20 and have the pledge weekend the same day? Mass would run long if we did this all in one day. Should we try to have the pledge drive on April 25-26 with a visiting priest? Father didn't think this was a good idea. Should we cancel the speaker for announcement weekend and have Father say a few words about Diocesan Stewardship during the homily on announcement weekend?

After much discussion it was decided to cancel the speaker and move the announcement and pledge weekend up one week. Father would write and send a letter announcing Diocesan Stewardship before this weekend's masses. Flyers would go in the bulletin this weekend and not in Father's letter. Diocesan Stewardship would be announced on April 12th and 13th. The Diocesan Stewardship pledge weekend would be held April 19th and 20th.

We discussed how we would use any of the extra money that was collected for Diocesan Stewardship. We could use the extra money to put towards the elevator campaign or keep it for something we may want to do for the parishes' 100th anniversary in 2012.

We will be handling the pledge weekend like we have done in the past. Pens will be placed in the book holders in the pews before mass and the ushers will pass out and collect pledges.

The stewardship commission will go through the pledge cards and tally them for the parish and diocese on April 21st. We will be sending thank-you's out to all that have pledged.

Appreciation Event

Jill contacted four parishes about appreciation events they may have had for volunteers. None of these parishes held a special event for volunteers. Sometimes the priests would send out individual thank you notes to volunteers. In years past we combined the religious education teacher's appreciation event with an event for all volunteers. Should we include the teachers in a volunteer appreciation event? Keep the events separate? How would we identify the people to invite? Some people have indicated that they would want the church to save the money that would be used for this for something else. We won't organize this now.

Parish Tithing to the Needy

Fr. Tim Piaseke from St. Mary's in Aurora will speak to us at the May stewardship meeting. We plan on presenting him with a check for \$1,487.00. We can also get his input on the needs of his parish. We will announce this to the parish the Sunday before our meeting.

Wills Seminar

We held our last seminar in the fall of 2005. We would like to ask Mr. Becker again to speak. We would also ask Greg Urban from the Diocese to speak as well. After discussion of possible dates and time it was decided to hold the seminar on October 8, 2008. Jill will contact Greg Urban with the date. This event will be open to the entire parish (as opposed to those over age 55).

Children's Essay/Poster Contest

A note to religious education students was sent home announcing the contest about 10 days ago. The entries are due on April 20th. The stewardship commission will judge the entries. The decisions will be announced on April 27th. We'll display the winning entries in the east lobby and publish the winning essay's in the bulletin. Jill will get the prizes together (gift card from McDonald's and a religious gift store).

Father closed the meeting with prayer.

The next meeting (which is also the last meeting of the year) is May 13, 2008.

Submitted by
Beth Gehringer, Secretary