

**St. Catherine of Genoa
Stewardship Commission Meeting
August 5, 2008**

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

Wills Seminar

The Wills Seminar will be held on October 8, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Scott Becker will present the legal part of the seminar. Greg Urban from the Diocese will also speak. We decided to mail an invitation to all parishioners. Last time we mailed invitation letters to only those parishioners over age 55. We'll take a look at the stewardship materials that we received from the diocese for images, pictures or text we may want to use for the invitations. Jill will send out invitations and include reply cards.

Beth and Linda will coordinate the refreshments for the evening. Let's advertise this event in the Observer. Father will mention the seminar at the next deanery meeting. We'll finalize the details at the September meeting.

Updates:

The **Seven Steps Financial Freedom** class will be held in October and November. Information will be included in the next parish newsletter.

Diocesan Stewardship: We have received \$37,655.00 in pledges so far. Of these pledges we have received \$12,253.00 in payments. The number of pledges is at 165. Our goal is 174.

Monthly Stewardship Flyer/Appreciation Event: The monthly stewardship flyer will no longer be included in the bulletin. The appreciation event has been removed from the stewardship budget this year.

Environmental Stewardship: We'll hold off on promoting this aspect of stewardship at this time.

The stewardship commission will begin studying a new book on parish stewardship. It may take us two years to get through the whole book. Father has looked at the book and it has a lot of practical examples of stewardship. It also highlights spirituality and how parishes can work toward becoming a stewardship parish.

2008 Time, Talent and Treasure

Jill distributed the tentative calendar. This looks like it will work out this fall.

We discussed possible lay witnesses. Father will ask Dale Jurs again if she will be a treasure witness (at all 3 masses). We could ask Steve Younker, Bob Hewlett, Deb Baert, Steve Dillett or Dan Devine to speak about time and talent.

Should we produce time, talent and treasure materials in Spanish this fall? How should we communicate stewardship to the Spanish members of the parish? Father will concelebrate a couple of the Spanish masses and speak to the congregation about our fundraising for the elevator and basic stewardship.

The time, talent and treasure materials we used last year are OK. We'll just change the artwork and use the new diocesan artwork. We'll review the materials at the September meeting.

Goals for 2008-2009

Goal 1 - Increasing the Offertory / On Every Agenda - The offertory grew from 2005-2008, but in recent months has decreased to 2005 levels. We want to encourage those parishioners using offertory envelopes to increase the amount they include. This is a major concern. We need to come up with a strategy to encourage more giving. Focusing on increasing the tithe will help. We can ask the lay witness speaking about treasure

this fall to mention the higher costs the parish has been incurring for keeping the building running and maintained.

Father suggested giving a “State of the Parish” address again. At this time we may want to include a graph showing the increase and then decrease in using the offertory envelopes. We’ll want to work closely with the pastoral and financial councils on this issue. It would help to share our meeting minutes with the other councils. The minutes can be included with the meeting agendas. We will also try to use homilies, letters, and bulletin blurbs to point out the importance of giving of treasure.

Goal 2 - Parish Stewardship Education: We may want to use the stewardship flyers from the diocese to include in the bulletin. Jill passed around a stewardship brochure that St. John Neumann parish uses to promote stewardship for their parish. Would we want to create something like this for St. Catherine’s? We would get permission from St. John Neumann to use some of their ideas. Father will begin using the “Pastor’s Letter” in the bulletin to highlight stewardship.

Goal 3 - We’ll talk about organizing a program/event on the subject of “The Sabbath of Sunday”.

Goal 4 - We’ll take a look at possibly incorporating a children’s offertory at the altar.

Goal 5 - We need to invite a couple more parishioners to serve on the Stewardship Commission. Let’s check the talent surveys from last fall to see if anyone volunteered to serve. Julie Carlson, Jason Fletcher and/or Jeff Seyller were suggested as possible members.

Goal 6 - A priority this year will be educating the parish about the parish tithe. We’ll try to start by including a financial report in the bulletin. In August a report will be prepared with financial as well as sacramental statistics. We’ll explain the importance about increasing parishioner’s personal tithe as well as the parish tithe.

Goal 7 - ½ % Tithe / On Every Agenda: We have put in the parish budget for the year a ½% tithe to worthy charities; a reduction from the 1% tithe that was included in last year’s budget. We as a parish contributed funds to Hope Haven and St. Mary’s Parish in an effort as a parish to tithe.

Goal 7 - St. Mary’s in Aurora Partnership - Information regarding our partnership with St. Mary’s will be in the next newsletter. The **school supply drive** for St. Mary’s was very successful.

Father Piasecki suggested that a **winter wear collection** would be very helpful to the parish. Beth and Linda volunteered to coordinate this in October or November. We’ll call St. Mary’s to get suggestions of needed items. We’ll probably organize it as a reverse collection. Suggested items will be placed on slips of paper for parishioners to take and then return the items.

We’ll be establishing a formal discussion with Fr. Piasecki about what we, at St. Catherine’s, can do to assist St. Mary’s Parish in Aurora. This will include projects that may require our gifts of time and labor. We will keep the Pastoral and Finance Councils apprised of our decisions and activities of this new partnership with St. Mary’s parish in Aurora.

All Council Meeting: All the councils of the parish will meet together on August 28, 2008. Fr. Piasecki will speak to us about the multi cultural dynamics of blending two cultures in a parish.

The next Stewardship Commission meeting is September 2, 2008.

Father closed with a prayer.

Submitted by
Beth Gehringer, Secretary