

**St. Catherine of Genoa  
Stewardship Commission Meeting  
September 2, 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 Preface, Introduction and Chapter 1 of "Stewardship-A Parish Handbook." This book affirms what we are already doing with stewardship. It does challenge us to more fully incorporate stewardship into our every day lives. We spoke of stewardship as being a constant renewal in our life. What we read so far highlighted the fact that all walks of life need to embrace the stewardship way of life; even if people weren't Catholic. This is the right way to live. Why is it so hard to make a commitment to stewardship? Another idea highlighted in the book so far is that Christ expects a return on his investment in us. What the commission wants to focus on now is how to weave stewardship into the fabric of our parish. How should we go about doing this?

### **Wills Seminar**

Invitations will be sent out three weeks ahead of October 8<sup>th</sup>. Jill distributed the reply card we could use. She has versions with two different diocesan images. We chose the one we liked best. If we need help getting donations of food for refreshments we could contact people that signed up to help with hospitality. We anticipate 20 people would probably attend.

### **St. Mary's Winter Drive**

When we get the list of needed items from St. Mary's parish Betty would like a copy. She has extra lap throws and supplies that could be donated.

**New Commission Members:** We should ask one of the Hispanic leaders to join the commission.

### **2008 Time, Talent and Treasure**

Jill presented two versions of the **calendar** for this fall's appeals. We decided on Plan B. We still need to contact volunteers to speak as **lay witnesses** this fall.

Jill distributed two versions of the **ministry booklet**. We liked the book with the cross shown on it. We'll give the final approval on the ministry booklet at the next meeting and Jill will get it to the printer. We talked about adding a new category to be added to the ministry booklet. We need people to help with cleaning the church. We could have a lay witness highlight this new ministry.

We discussed having parishioners do a "**talent assessment**" to help them determine what areas they could volunteer to help with. Father would introduce this after the lay witnesses speak. We would also want to have parishioners think about stewardship at home before signing up to pledge their time and talent.

This year we'd like to emphasize that parishioners **sign up for something new** or different. We'd also add a spot for parishioners to be taken off the list for a particular ministry that had been participating in.

Would we want to allow parishioners to **sign up the next weekend** if they are not at mass during the pledge weekend? How should we communicate this? It could be mentioned in Father's letter, mentioned at mass and/or put in the bulletin.

Father will work with Laura to come up with **music that has a stewardship theme** for the masses from October 18<sup>th</sup> through November 16<sup>th</sup>.

We discussed the use of **stewardship banners/signs** in and around the church this fall. Father and Linda will work together to come up with ideas. We could have yard signs made for parishioners to place in their yards to advertise stewardship. We could also have a large banner made up for the outside of each entrance like we did for "Why Catholic". We'll definitely use the diocesan stewardship images on the signs we create. We will get signs made for use on the bulletin boards. Let's try to get a poster made for the wall opposite the elevator entrance in the basement.

We'll use the diocesan **stewardship images on the front cover of the bulletin** for October and November only.

There is no **stewardship prayer** from the diocese this year. Jill distributed a prayer she found. Should the stewardship commission write a prayer? Should Father write one?

We may want to have a commissioning ceremony for all ministers. Let's talk about this at the next meeting.

### **Increasing the Offertory**

We continue to discuss and look for ways to increase our offertory. For the next meeting each stewardship commission member should try to contact someone in another parish to get ideas about how they increase their offertory.

### **Monthly Tithe**

\$250.00 is available (since July 1<sup>st</sup>) for the parish to tithe to an organization outside the parish. We discussed how we may want to handle this. We could decide who to give the money to and make an announcement once a month at mass. If parishioners knew who we'd be giving the money to they may be more apt to give more. We could put together a list of possible charities for each quarter. We could also ask parishioners for suggestions. Parishioners could contact stewardship commission members with suggestions.

### **Announcements**

Father and Laura are proposing the creation of a new ministry at mass. We could ask the cantor/lector or another volunteer (commentator) to make announcements before the last song. In addition to reading the announcements this individual could emphasize upcoming important items like the time and talent pledge weekend or who our parish tithe will go to that month.

### **Annual Stewardship Report**

Jill distributed copies of the report that was also included in the bulletin. This year we tried to include more details regarding miscellaneous expenses. The number of volunteer positions was added to the report as well.

The next meeting was changed to September 30, 2008.

Father closed with a prayer.

Submitted by  
Beth Gehringer, Secretary