

**St. Catherine of Genoa
Stewardship Commission Meeting
September 30, 2008**

Those present included Fr. Tim Seigel, Jill Hansen, Linda Dolder, Betty Burke, Wendy Engles, Beth Gehringer and Julie Carlson. Jason Flesher has also joined the Stewardship Commission but could not attend this meeting.

We opened the meeting with a prayer service.

We discussed Chapter 3, 4 and 8 of "Stewardship-A Parish Handbook." Chapter 3 paralleled a Catholic institution with an automobile; the paid staff as the engine, money as fuel and lubrication and office equipment/supplies as support parts (like the frame, tires, radiator, etc.) The auto won't run without an essential part; the drive shaft. The volunteer is like the drive shaft of an auto. Without volunteers the future of our church hangs in the balance. Is our parish like this? We can see the parallels but we need more volunteers to run more efficiently. Some parishioners may have to be nudged to recognize their talents and abilities. A director of volunteerism for the parish could help us in this process. We may want to emphasize areas that we need the most help with.

As mentioned in chapter 4 we discussed whether or not our parish has developed a stewardship attitude throughout the whole fabric of parish life. Is there a stewardship theme in everything we do? We believe we are still in an education phase of stewardship. Our greeters are working on getting to know everyone. We may be more apt to get volunteers if we highlight this hospitality aspect. We also want to give current volunteers a way to easily change ministries without feeling guilty.

Chapter 8 dealt with lay witnesses for stewardship appeals. This chapter highlighted essential elements of a lay witness talk.

Wills Seminar

Jill put in a lot of effort in preparing and sending out 400 invitations to the seminar. She has only received 11 response cards. Ten were not able to make it and one will be coming. She did receive a call indicating that two other people would be attending. We discussed cancelling this event if we have less than ten people attending.

St. Mary's Winter Drive

Linda contacted Mary from St. Mary's to get the number of hats/gloves/mittens they are hoping to receive. They are looking for items for pre-school age through 8th grade students. Of the 150 total they are looking for twenty should be pre-school sizes only. We'll organize this as a reverse collection. We'll prepare tickets to be distributed during the weekend of October 11-12. Items will be returned the next weekend (October 18-19).

2008 Time, Talent and Treasure

We reviewed the calendar again. Father wrote a stewardship prayer. This will be included in the letter sent home to parishioners.

We'll give a list of elements of a **lay witness** talk (found in Chapter 8-page 43) to both lay witnesses. Father would like their talks to be limited to six minutes. They should practice their talk in front of Father.

Jill revised and distributed a **“talent assessment”** we’d like to use. The format was taken from the appendix of the “Stewardship” handbook we are reading. We’d like to emphasize the Liturgical, Educational and Service Minister categories listed on the back of the form. Father will introduce the form after the lay witness talk. We decided we would include the assessment with the ministry booklet we pass out at the end of mass during October 25-26.

We reviewed the **Time and Talent Card**. A new position of “Commentator” will be added to the Liturgical Ministries section. The “Commentator” will speak before mass starts at the choir area to announce the theme of the mass and the intention of the mass. They will give the announcements at the end of mass. We removed “Altar Servers” from the list of Liturgical Ministries. Altar Servers will be registered through religious education. We are including columns on the card titled “P” for continued participation and “D” if a parishioner wants to discontinue participation. We’d like to emphasize to parishioners that if they discontinue a ministry they should try something new.

Pens will be in the book holders for use during the pledge weekend November 1-2. Betty will instruct the ushers of the procedures for the 5 p.m. mass and Beth will take care of the 10:30 a.m. mass. Yard signs will be at all the entrances this weekend. Baskets will be placed at each doorway during the weekend of November 8-9 for any pledge cards not turned in on November 1-2.

Increasing the Offertory

A couple of us contacted other parishes looking for info about how they have handled the issue of increasing the offertory. One parish mentioned that once parishioners realized the parish began tithing to others, the offertory increased. Another parish stopped publishing offertory figures in the bulletin that were under budget.

Monthly Tithe

We talked of having the commentator announce who the parish tithe will be going to. We’ll coordinate this position with the liturgy commission. For now, it was decided to postpone giving the parish tithe.

Father distributed a prayer book of reflections on stewardship in light of the Gospel of Matthew. We should start using this book on October 12th.

The next meeting is November 11, 2008.

Father closed the meeting with a prayer.

Submitted by,
Beth Gehringer, Secretary