

**St. Catherine of Genoa
Stewardship Commission Meeting
December 9, 2008**

Those present included Fr. Tim Seigel, Jill Hansen, Linda Dolder, Wendy Engles, Beth Gehringer, Jason Flesher and Julie Carlson.

Father opened the dinner/meeting with a prayer.

2008 Time and Talent Process/Thank You Evaluation

In lieu of the regular meeting we wanted to discuss the process of thanking all who signed up for a ministry during the time and talent pledge weekend. We would also assemble the thank you letters by parishioner that had been prepared by the ministry owners.

We talked about the issue of parishioners indicating on the pledge card that they wanted to discontinue participation in a ministry. This year we instructed parishioners to mark "D" for discontinue if they wanted to be taken off the list of a particular ministry. This situation seemed to cause confusion. In some of the liturgical ministries parishioners are expected to make a commitment of more than one year (i.e. Eucharistic Ministers are appointed/certified for a 3 year period). We could continue to ask Eucharistic Ministers if they want to continue serving during the 3 year period so they could recommit to the ministry every year. In past years we left parishioners off of the schedule if they did not sign up again. We only used those parishioners that had signed up again during the pledge process. It was clear that this issue should be addressed in depth before next year's time and talent pledge process. Whatever is decided should be made clear to the parish.

We discussed the process of sending out thank you letters to all those that completed a pledge card. The past few years we have had the ministry leaders send out their own thank you letter that included info on upcoming training events. By doing this parishioners were not thanked for pledging for up to a month after they pledged. This year we are taking the time to collate all of the letters so that if a parishioner pledged to help in more than one ministry they received all their thank you letters in one envelope. This would save on postage. Next year we may want to send a mass mailing to everyone thanking them for pledging and notifying them that the ministry leader would be in touch soon (sending a letter or calling) with info about the ministry and training dates. By doing this parishioners would receive a thank you soon after the pledge weekend.

Ministry Leaders: The need for more ministry leaders was discussed. We, as the Stewardship Commission, would want set up special training sessions for all leaders. The commission would determine the expectations of the ministry leaders.

Ministry Fair/Discussion of Ministries at Mass: We could try to have a ministry fair in February or March. Each ministry would have a table/booth. Or, we could have the current ministry leaders speak to the parish during mass about their ministry. We would only focus on 6 or 7 ministries.

Parish Tithe: Several charities were mentioned for donating the parish tithe to (St. Vincent DePaul at St. Mary's in DeKalb, Deaf Apostolate, Hope Haven, Genoa Township, Genesis House).

Father closed with a prayer.

The next meeting is January 13, 2009.

Submitted by
Beth Gehringer, Secretary