

**St. Catherine of Genoa
Stewardship Commission Meeting
March 17, 2009**

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

We opened the meeting with a prayer service that included the readings for this Sunday.

We discussed Chapter 18 and 19 of “Stewardship-A Parish Handbook.” Chapter 18 discussed the parish as steward. Is our parish parochialistic? Do we believe that our parish is more important than other parishes or the diocese? The group doesn’t think so. But Father noticed this when he first came to the parish. There was an attitude that the parish didn’t want to help anyone else beyond the parish. The only stewardship our parish knew at that time was the diocesan stewardship drive. According to Chapter 18, “Total parish stewardship produces a reasonable, Christ-centered balance between what is good for my parish, and what is best for all of the people of God.”

Chapter 19 highlighted the importance of planning. We should prepare a plan for our parish for the future. Do we know where we want to go with the parish? We shouldn’t rely on the pastor. In the event the pastor leaves and a new one appointed, our plan will allow a smooth transition. We need to have a plan in place to continue the work we have started.

Stewardship Conference: This year’s “Our Sunday Visitor” stewardship conference is in Cincinnati, Ohio during June 24-26. Wendy mentioned that she would likely attend.

Diocesan Stewardship Meeting: The closest regional meeting will be held at St. Mary’s in DeKalb on March 18th from 7-8 p.m. We’ll leave St. Catherine’s by 6:30 p.m.

Pro-Life Series Dinner-March 19th: The stewardship commission will be hosting the dinner on March 19th. We reviewed what everyone was bringing and what time to arrive to set up.

Meeting with St. Mary’s-DeKalb Stewardship Commission: We were unable to attend the February meeting. We will attend their meeting on March 24th. We’ll leave St. Catherine’s by 6:30 p.m.

Children’s Coloring/Essay Contest: The theme is the same as last year: “How do you share the gifts God has given you”. Laci will be distributing info for the contest this Sunday. The stewardship commission will be supplying the poster board for posters. Linda will pick up the poster board and get it to Laci. The posters and essays are due back to Laci by April 5th. The winners will be announced on April 19th. Copies of the essays will be mailed home to all commission members for review. We’ll vote on both the essays and posters at the next meeting.

The “**Living Abundantly in Difficult Times**” flyer was distributed. Jill had included prices if we decide to order copies for the parish. Would we want to include this in the bulletin as an insert? It may slide out of the bulletin. Would we want to mail it home? The issue of postage and who to send this to comes up. Are the flyers in Spanish? Would we want to hand them out at the Spanish mass? It was decided to pass these flyers out after mass at each entrance on Palm Sunday after the 10:30 a.m. mass. Stewardship commission members would hand them out.

Recruit & Train Ministry Leaders/Ministry Fair: We discussed changing the time and talent process by including a ministry fair. Would we hold the ministry fair in lieu of completing the time and talent pledge cards? When would we want to hold the fair? Should we hold it in the spring or fall? It was decided to organize a ministry fair this fall. We believe it would be best to hold the fair at the end of September when there are no religious education classes. We need to get the date to Laci before she makes the religious education calendar for next year.

Booths would be available for each type of ministry and ministry leaders would need to organize the booth. After discussion it was decided to hold the ministry fair one week and then fill out the time and talent pledge cards during mass the next weekend. After the pledge weekend a general thank you letter will be sent by Father. It would include the ministry leader's names and phone numbers. The ministry leaders would then need to communicate to those who volunteered their thanks and coordinate any necessary training. Father will work with the ministry leaders first to establish the training schedule.

International Catholic Stewardship Council (ICSC) Parish Stewardship Contest: This award is available to parishes with five years or less in the stewardship process. Jill distributed the application forms we need to submit with suggestions of what we may want to include. Can we think of anything else to add to the application form? Bring any other ideas to the next meeting. We will be applying for the "Total Parish Stewardship Award" and the "Yearly Parish Stewardship Commitment Renewal Brochure & Materials Award". Some of the items we will be submitting with this application are our pledge card, parish assessment and ministry booklet. The prize is a paid trip to the next conference, a plaque and recognition of our work.

Diocesan Stewardship Planning: Jill distributed our tentative calendar for diocesan stewardship. A letter from Father will go out by the end of the week of April 13th informing the parish of the upcoming pledge drive. Our goal given by the Diocese is \$29,518 but the parish goal is \$32,470. The suggested gift amount is still \$300. The diocesan goal was reduced by \$1,000 because of the economy. The announcement of Diocesan Stewardship will be done at all the masses during the weekend of April 18th and 19th. The pledge weekend is planned for the weekend of May 2nd and 3rd. It was decided that this will not conflict with First Communion. We also decided not to have a lay witness speak the week before the pledge weekend. We did not have a lay witness last year and were successful with the pledge drive. Father will highlight the diocesan departments that will benefit from our pledges during pledge weekend on the weekend of April 25th and 26th.

Family in Need: Father mentioned that Lydia Ruiz, from our parish, has been ill in the hospital the last few weeks. She and her husband have five children and her husband has no job. The family is in dire need of our help. It was decided to give the family \$1,000 from our emergency fund. We would take up a second collection at all of the masses next weekend. We'll talk to the Hispanic community about planning a kermes again after a 7 p.m. Spanish mass to raise more money for the family.

Father closed with a prayer.

The next meeting is April 14, 2009.

Submitted by
Beth Gehringer, Secretary