

**St. Catherine of Genoa  
Stewardship Commission Meeting  
May 12, 2009**

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

Father opened the meeting with a prayer.

We discussed the article "Today's Economic Crisis is a Failure of Responsible Stewardship" by Daniel Conway. We do agree with the author that "Today's financial crisis is the result of poor stewardship." While the author seems to blame the business world and government for creating this situation, does it serve a purpose to lay blame? This situation does not promote stewardship. It calls us to take personal responsibility for our own financial situation and to understand that stewardship calls us to live as stewards of everything God has given us. Is our faith part of the stewardship process? It seems that this article tries to educate us about stewardship and challenges us to change our attitude toward our personal finances and financial stewardship of our society.

### **Diocesan Stewardship**

We received pledges in the amount of \$34,000 during the pledge weekend. The diocesan goal for our parish was \$29,518 and our parish goal was \$32,000. This amount was received from 136 pledges. Last year we had 116 pledges. We are a month ahead of last year in receiving a total of \$34,000. We got cash payments included with the pledge cards in the amount of \$9,000. Last year we received \$6,000 in cash payments with the pledge cards. We will get \$5,000 back from the diocese from last year's pledges.

Jill responded to an email from Dave Hougen from the diocese and notified him we are at 100% of our goal. We are the first parish in the diocese at goal.

The first group of "Thank You" cards have been sent out. At the end of May we'll be sending a letter to those who haven't pledged yet. In mid July the diocese will send out letters to those who haven't pledged. This fall the diocese will follow up with phone calls to those who haven't pledged.

Jill will put up thermometer posters showing where we are in the pledge process as far as the amount pledged. This info will also be in the bulletin.

We are all very pleased with how the process went this year. We felt Father's stewardship talks made a big impact. Everything went smoothly with the ushers at each mass (distributing and picking up pledge cards).

### **Fall Parish Stewardship**

We discussed whether or not we want to hold a ministry fair during the next year and what form it would take. If we do it, it must be planned early. The decision needs to be made at tonight's meeting. If we decide on a traditional ministry fair we may want to focus on only a few ministries. Discussion of the format of the ministry fair included recruiting ministry leaders to participate in a ministry fair, coming up with our top five ministries to promote and creating a video that has parishioners speaking about different ministries. In lieu of a ministry fair we may want to approach regular mass attendees and make a personal request to assist us in certain ministries. Another possibility is hosting a liturgy night gathering to discuss different ministries and ask for help. We may also want to make announcements at mass about our need for help in certain ministries.

We do want to be sure to measure the response to our call this fall for future planning purposes. It was decided that the ministry fair issue will be the first item on our agenda in August.

## **New Members**

One or two members of the commission may be stepping down. There is no set term of service for members. We may want to establish a policy for terms of service of stewardship commission members. Several people from the parish were mentioned as potential members. Let Father know if we have any other suggestions of possible members.

## **St. Mary's-Aurora**

We haven't done anything with St. Mary's Parish recently. Are will interested in keeping up with our stewardship partnership with them? Fr. Seigel will contact Fr. Piasecki to touch base with him about their needs and how we might keep our connection going. Last year's school supply drive was very successful. We would like to organize this again in August.

Father closed with a prayer.

The next meeting is August 18, 2009.

Submitted by  
Beth Gehringer, Secretary