

**St. Catherine of Genoa  
Stewardship Commission Meeting  
September 15, 2009**

Those present included Fr. Tim Seigel, Jill Hansen, Linda Dolder, Julie Carlson and Donna Letterer. Beth Gehringer joined later in the meeting.

Father opened with a prayer.

We discussed the article "Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the U.S" – Paragraphs 28-44.

### **Evangelization Goals & Objectives**

Jill distributed and we discussed the results of the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) exercise from the September 1<sup>st</sup> all parish leadership meeting. For the next meeting we are to come up with some goals and program ideas to hand in. On January 5, 2010 we will be having another parish leadership meeting to come up with five goals as a parish to work on.

### **Monthly Parish Tithe Recipients**

We had planned to give our tithe to the DeKalb County Foundation for October. Father indicated that there is no money left in the emergency fund to pay out a tithe. We only are able to send out \$200 per month. There has been such a need for help in recent months. In light of the tragedy that struck Ashley Kim, Father is proposing we use any money we would have paid out in October and give that money to the Kim family. The Knights of Columbus are planning a fundraiser for the family.

### **2009-2010 Annual Calendar**

Jill distributed the annual calendar. Note the revised stewardship commission meeting dates this fall. This was due to the fact that the "Seven Steps" program will be held on Tuesdays beginning October 6<sup>th</sup>. This year we are adding evangelization goals to the calendar.

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

Last month there was a suggestion that we hold a used children's coat drive for St. Mary's. Would we want to include this with the drive for mittens, hats and gloves? Would we want to include coats for adults? Do we really want to donate used clothing? After discussion we decided we would stick with only new mittens, hats and gloves for children. We would hold a reverse collection like we did last year. Linda volunteered to create 100 slips for distribution. We'll announce this in the bulletin this weekend and hold the distribution next weekend.

**Annual Stewardship Report:** We reviewed the report. It was also included in the bulletin.

### **2009 Parish Stewardship-Time, Talent and Treasure**

Jill distributed the revised fall stewardship calendar. Do we want to include a new stewardship prayer card in the initial mailing in October? Father volunteered to write new stewardship prayer. We will not be sending out a pledge card in this initial mailing. On the weekend of October 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> we'll have the ushers distribute the ministry booklets after the witness talk; instead of after mass. Father will send out a general thank you to all that volunteered for a ministry. In this initial thank you we'll be including the ministry leaders name and phone number. Jill will provide the ministry leaders with a list of names of those that volunteered. The ministry leaders will then be following up with those that volunteered and provide more detailed information about the ministry and training, if applicable.

Again this year we will be using the diocesan graphics on all of our materials (prayer card, bulletin, pledge cards, ministry booklets and self-assessment flyer). We reviewed the Time and Talent pledge card. Should Jill tone down the green in the card? Do we want to add or remove any ministries on the pledge card? We can remove "Why Catholic" since this fall will be the last session. We need to add an "Evangelization Committee" and a committee to work with the "Catholics Returning Home" campaign. This will be the last time that a category for "Youth Ministry" will be included. If there is no support this fall we will remove it for next year. We need to add a "Compassionate Ministry Coordinator" to the card since Gail Springer will be stepping down. An asterisk will be added to the card to indicate we have a great need for a particular ministry. This year we will be starting over and building up a new database for each ministry. Anyone who doesn't sign up for a particular ministry will be dropped from the list. The exception is for the liturgical ministries (Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Ushers, etc.)

We discussed some parishioners who may be willing to give a treasure lay witness talk. Some names mentioned included Bob Engels, Mike Dreska, Jason Fletcher, John Noyes and Sharon Schreier. Let Father know if we have any other suggestions.

Father and Jill met with leaders of the Hispanic community about the parish stewardship process this fall. They shared the calendar and materials we received in Spanish from the diocese with the group. They are very eager to be a part of this. These leaders realize they need to educate their community about stewardship. Mexicans don't support the church financially in their homeland and so this is the reason many Hispanics in the U.S. don't give much to the church. This meeting also generated a lot of ideas for blending the two cultures of our parish. They will create their own materials and organize their own appeal. A problem with sending materials out to the Hispanics homes is that many are not officially registered with the parish. Instead of a mailing they will hand out letters notifying the Hispanic parishioners about the appeal and requesting that they register with the parish. They will help us build a database of these parishioners.

Father closed with a prayer.

The next meeting is October 5, 2009.

Submitted by  
Beth Gehringer, Secretary