

**St. Catherine of Genoa  
Stewardship Commission Meeting  
December 7, 2009**

Those present included Jill Hansen, Linda Dolder, Pat Riedy, Donna Letterer and Beth Gehringer.

Jill opened the meeting with a prayer.

We discussed the article “Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the U.S” – Paragraphs 61-64. We shared our personal experiences of evangelization. We talked about the meaning of “Go and Make Disciples of All Nations.” As during the times of Jesus, there continues to be constant conflict/wars because of religion. For this reason there is the continued need for evangelization. The first focus of the U.S. bishops is active Catholics. These Catholics can help bring in Catholics that aren’t as fully active in the church. Finally, Catholics can then evangelize all of society.

### **Listing of Parish Evangelization Ideas**

Jill passed out the list of all ideas generated from the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) exercise with the parish leadership last fall. We are asked to review this list and determine some of the most important ideas.

### **All Leader Meeting**

A meeting with all members of parish committees, commissions and staff will be held Sunday, January 10, 2010 at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be served and we’ll go over the list of parish evangelization ideas and determine five things the parish should focus on during the next year.

### **Monthly Tithe**

We discussed different agencies/organizations that we can support with our parish tithes for the next few months. A request was made by a parishioner to support the Kirkland food pantry. This pantry supports Kingston and Malta as well as Kirkland. The Kirkland food pantry is set up differently than the Genoa-Kingston food pantry. The Kirkland pantry is licensed, works with other service agencies and gets more money so is able to offer more perishable items. It was decided to give the parish tithe to the Kirkland pantry during December and May each year. We’ll give the parish tithe to the Genoa-Kingston food pantry in April. We’ll continue to hold monthly food pantry collections each month. It was decided to send the January tithe to the Fox Valley Older Adult Service Agency, the February tithe to Genesis House and the March tithe to St. Mary’s in Aurora.

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

We reviewed the statistics of the whole stewardship process this fall. A treasure follow up will be done in January of all those that did not pledge during the treasure process.

We saw a large reduction in the total number of ministries checked because we decided to start a new list of parishioners for each ministry. It’s evident that we had the same (even a small increase) number of parishioners signing up for ministries. One hundred more parishioners have joined the church this year. More money was pledged this year during the treasure appeal even with less people pledging. We also saw the total dollars received increase. It appears parishioners were giving money without pledging. Follow up after the 2008 treasure process netted an additional \$20,000 in contributions pledged and 19 additional families pledging.

Reminders of the status of parishioner’s treasure pledges will be done as part of the treasure process. Jill and Beth heard at the international stewardship conference that many parishes send reminders to parishioners to keep them informed of the status of their pledge. This will be the first time that we, at St. Catherine’s, will do

this for regular yearly treasure pledges. When the thank you letter is sent we'll mention that letters will be sent throughout the year with the status of pledges. The parish has already sent reminders of pledges for the elevator campaign. Parishioners are responding to these reminders by giving more to the elevator campaign.

The Hispanic community followed the same stewardship process as we did. Their pledge card was not as extensive as ours but they did include helping with the flower gardens and plumbing along with liturgical ministries. We also discussed Hispanic culture in terms of this process.

The "Thank You" process went well this year. We don't believe any other major changes need to be made to the process for next year.

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

Do we want to continue our relationship with St. Mary's? We haven't done much with the parish except the school supply and winter drive this year. We'd like to meet with the parish leaders from St. Mary's to discuss what we may want to do jointly. We would like to have a more "hands on approach" with this relationship. It may help to invite some of the leaders from our Hispanic community along when we get together and meet with them. We do want to keep growing in our understanding of Hispanic culture to help with the relationship with our own Hispanic community.

Linda closed with a prayer.

The next meeting is January 12, 2010.

Submitted by  
Beth Gehringer, Secretary