

**St. Catherine of Genoa  
Stewardship Commission Meeting  
March 9, 2010**

Those present included Fr. Tim Seigel, Jill Hansen, Julie Carlson, Pat Riedy, Linda Dolder, Beth Gehringer and new member Maria Ayala. Maria is a member of the Hispanic community of our parish.

Father opened the meeting with a reading and discussion of a passage from 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians.

We discussed Chapter One and the discussion questions from "Stewardship: A Disciples Response."

### **Diocesan Stewardship 2010**

Jill distributed and discussed the Diocesan Stewardship calendar for this year. Our parish goal assigned by the Diocese is \$28,266 (reduced from last year). We have increased our parish goal by 10% to \$31,093 in order to be sure we meet our goal. A letter from Father will be sent to parishioners during the week of April 12<sup>th</sup> regarding Diocesan Stewardship and suggesting a pledge of at least \$300.00. Father will announce Diocesan Stewardship at all masses during the weekend of April 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. A speaker or another announcement of Diocesan Stewardship will be at all masses during the weekend of April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Diocesan Stewardship brochures will be added to the bulletin this weekend as well. Diocesan Stewardship pledges cards will be distributed during the weekend of May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. The stewardship commission will open all pledge cards on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Results of our pledges will be announced in the bulletin and a thermometer poster will be posted starting the weekend of May 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup>. Hispanic pledges will also be included. Thank you cards will be sent during the month of May.

Do we want to try to get speakers to speak at masses during the weekend of April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> or should we have Father discuss Diocesan Stewardship and what the diocese provides to our parish and parishioners? When Father spoke last year we got more pledges than the year before. Possible speakers from various diocesan offices were discussed. Father will contact the Marriage Tribunal office and if we aren't able to get a speaker he'll check with the Family Life office.

Would we want to send out one last follow up to our parishioners who may not have finished paying their 2009 pledge in 2010? It was decided to wait until next year to do this and include this step in the process for 2010-2011. We'd follow up in February 2011.

Last year Diocesan Stewardship was presented at mass for the Hispanic community. We'd like to do this again this year. Only those on our parishes' mailing list may be contacted by the diocese to follow up on pledges. Some members of the Hispanic community are still not registered with our parish. Diocesan Stewardship materials will be handed out at mass again this year. Hopefully a speaker can be arranged for the Spanish mass on April 24<sup>th</sup> (announcement weekend). We'll discuss details later with Maria.

One of the regional diocesan stewardship kick off meetings will be held at our parish on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 p.m.

### **Evangelization Goals-Youth**

More time is needed to get planning done to create a youth program at our parish. Goals need to be established as a basis to start a program. We discussed how we could start this process and what we, as a stewardship commission, want to see happen? We need to find out what the youth of our parish want to see in a youth program. We discussed different possibilities of activities we could sponsor for our youth (service projects, social activities, a joint activity with our Hispanic youth). A social activity seems to be a good first start. We could get a band to come in and play and offer food. At the activity we'd ask the kids for their ideas on what we could offer to make their faith come alive. Confirmation students would be a good place to promote this first activity. Would we want to plan something right before school starts in the fall or before the first football

game? Linda and Beth will make an appointment with Alaisa to talk about what we may be able to organize for next school year.

### **Children's Coloring Contest Update**

Jill talked to Alaisa about the contest. Alaisa will have the materials for the contest ready to be distributed March 28<sup>th</sup> to all religious education students. A reminder will go out to students on April 11<sup>th</sup> that entries are due on April 18<sup>th</sup>. The winners will be announced on April 25<sup>th</sup>. The theme of the contest is Easter and/or stewardship.

### **Activities with St. Mary's this summer**

At our March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting at St. Mary's, Pat and Julia (from St. Mary's) discussed organizing a pot-luck get together. Jill had already been talking to Leann Dunlap about organizing a summer picnic for our parish on June 13<sup>th</sup>. This seems like a good date to organize a social activity with St. Mary's parish. Each parish could bring cultural food items. This would be a good opportunity to bring together both the Hispanic and English speaking community in our parish. While we may end up only having several people from each parish attend this will be a good start. The stewardship commission will plan this event at the April meeting. We'll ask for feedback from St. Mary's parish during the planning of this event.

While we were at St. Mary's last week we decided on Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup> as dates to get together to work at St. Mary's. We'd try to organize a group of people from our parish to go to St. Mary's to help with remodeling an empty room in the basement of the church.

### **Stewardship Small Group Study**

Bob Pfundstein (from the Diocese) and Fr. Piasecki (from St. Mary's) created a study guide of the U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter of Stewardship in both English and Spanish. This study guide can be used as a five week small group study. The sessions would be an hour and a half in length. It could be made into a six week program if we wanted to have the first week as an introduction to the program. It contains prayer, scripture and discussion questions. Would we want to consider using this in our parish? We could do this during the Easter season or next year during lent in place of (or in combination with) the vespers that took place on Sunday nights. The stewardship commission may want to go through it first before offering it to others in the parish. We may want to offer this program as a large group activity or in small groups. Linda is interested in leading a small group with her "Why Catholic" group. It would be good to have a Hispanic group going through this as well. Father decided to lead a large group study on Sunday evenings.

**Suggestion for bulletin:** Julie mentioned that we may want to move the financial stewardship details in the bulletin from the top of the column to the middle or bottom. We don't want to emphasize finances.

Father closed with a prayer.

The next meeting is April 13, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by  
Beth Gehringer, Secretary