

Minutes of the September 19, 2005 Stewardship Meeting

Attendees: Jim McCarthy, Bill Starr and Deacon John Nicholson

Meeting Day Change: John Nicholson requested a change in the meeting day for the Stewardship Commission. Commission meetings will now be held on the first Thursday of every month from September to June. Meetings will run from 7:30 to 9:00 PM. There was no objection to this requested change, either from those in attendance or other members who were contacted by e-mail.

This meeting covered goals and objectives for 2005/2006:

Web Site: We discussed the need to continue adding timely content to the OLF web site. A number of ministries are not yet listed. Incorporation of photos of council, commission and ministry chairs/members would be helpful and enhance communication.

The importance of the youth ministry section was raised and Jim McCarthy offered to help work on content. This particular section of the web site needs to be more dynamic, with timely content to draw youth to the site frequently. A technical resource is needed to jump start this effort.

Ministry Directory: The directory needs to be updated to incorporate current information on ministries and members.

Bulletin: A question was raised about limited space in the bulletin from time to time. A suggestion was made that the online version of the bulletin can (and often does) contain additional information. Perhaps a notation in the printed bulletin can indicate that more information is available online.

Parish Growth Partners (PGP) Newsletters: Approximately 800 electronic newsletters created by PGP are being sent out by e-mail and 200 hard copies by regular mail. There are 1500 families in the parish. Assuming that PGP is sending some newsletters to multiple family members, we are not yet reaching the entire registered population. E-mail addresses collected during the Ministry Open House in March will be forwarded to PGP, along with other e-mail addresses contained in Parish census information. Perhaps a sign-up campaign after each Mass to enroll people in the mailings is needed? How does PGP cross check e-mail addresses against parish census? How do we capitalize on this e-mail data base?

Ministry Liaison: Last year we started a ministry liaison initiative to more effectively communicate with the more than 45 ministries in the Parish. With Missy Deck's departure, we need to reassign her contacts at the next meeting. Question for discussion: Is this the best way to proceed? Has it been effective? Are there more effective ways to reach out to the other ministries?

2006 Ministry Open House/Ministry Spotlight on Sunday: It was generally agreed to forgo an Open House this coming year. It was suggested that several ministries could be spotlighted during the year on Coffee Sundays and that the Stewardship Commission could help facilitate these events. This topic will be discussed further at the October meeting.

Marriage Preparation: The Marriage Prep ministry has been dormant at OLF, do in part to the small number of weddings that take place each year. Jim McCarthy has been looking into what is happening in marriage preparation generally in the archdiocese. He is looking into the possibility of OLF collaborating with local parishes to provide a program that would satisfy the needs of our community. Jim will report back as information becomes available.

Treasure: The Stewardship Commission's primary focus has been on "Time & Talent" with little or no mention of the treasure piece. PGP will be addressing this aspect of Stewardship, however is there more that the Commission should be doing on this point. If we work to try to increase parishioner awareness of sharing their treasure, we need also to be able to articulate what the money would be used for, i.e. new staff, programs etc. More discussion is needed on this topic.

New Beginnings Program: The objective of the *New Beginnings Program* is to give individuals 1). a sense of church as community; 2). help members discern what gifts they can share; and 3) .provide an opportunity for individuals to share their talents with the community. Sr. Brenda is enthused about this program. Perhaps it is something that could be worked on collaboratively with other ministries.

New Members: The Stewardship Commission could benefit from the addition of several new members. Are there people that come to mind that we could invite to join?

The next Stewardship meeting will be on Thursday October 6 at 7:30 PM