

Minutes of the February 1, 2007 Stewardship Commission Meeting

Attendees: Deacon John Nicholson, Fr. Michael Bova Conti, Elisa Riedl, Julie Gibowicz, Mark Nevils, Jim McCarthy

Ministry Directory: Stewardship members continue to contact their assigned liaison ministries to update content and contact info for a 2007 Ministry Directory. Expected publish date is March/April 2007. Sherry Hutchins has volunteered to help lay out the Microsoft Word format.

Elisa Riedl has proposed a Talent-Ministry matrix which could give a graphical portrayal. The matrix would be included within the directory as a supplemental way to view ministry opportunities. Feedback on the proposed matrix was positive, but we need to firm up what the talents would be, and determine how we would portray ministries where multiple talents might be applicable.

- ❖ Commission members are asked to forward to the team what they think the key, broad talents might be which we would show on the matrix.
- ❖ Provide some examples showing multiple talents for a ministry.

Stewardship Treasure Component:

General Donor Information: Fr. Bova Conti reviewed some donor statistics, e.g.

- 35 donor units gave \$2,500 or more in total contributions in 2006. This includes the weekly offertory, as well as 2nd collections, Holy Family support, Grand Annual, etc.
- 130 donor units gave \$1,000 to \$2,500 in total contributions.
- these 165 donor units gave 63% of \$330,300 identifiable collection
- 752 identifiable donor units in 2006 (~50% of parish households)

Possible ways to increase giving were briefly discussed, e.g. electronic giving, pledging, using a different collection procedure. Also, it was felt that some parishioners may want to see additional information as to where future parish spending may be needed.

Discussion of book “Why Catholics Don’t Give... and What Can Be Done About It” by Charles Zech, an Economics professor at Villanova: The above donor unit information was interesting to consider versus some of the key findings made by Zech’s research, e.g. the 35 donor units represent “Post Vatican II” generation which places high value on parish openness and transparency.

Zech cites the following seven key determinants of religious contributions:

1. Build community
2. Give parishioners a role in parish decision-making processes
3. Develop Stewardship
4. Minimize the use of “Volunteers” – emphasize “Ministers”
5. Institute pledging
6. Meet the special needs of parishioners

7. Remind parishioners that contributing through estate planning is good stewardship

There are some areas where we as a parish may stack up well versus these determinants; there are others where we will need to focus some attention.

- ❖ Commission members are asked to assess how they think we as a parish stack up for each of these seven determinants, and how we could improve

Zech emphasizes the concept of “A Stewardship Parish,” but we need to take a phased approach to introducing the concept of “A Stewardship Parish.” Some people may equate “A Stewardship Parish” with tithing. We will continue to emphasize the Stewardship components Time and Talent, and will start to introduce and foster the Treasure component. The intent is to have a well-integrated Stewardship program (Time/Talent/Treasure) which supports the parish mission statement.

Next Stewardship Commission Meeting: Thursday, March 1, 2007 at 7:30pm