

## **Minutes of the January 4, 2007 Stewardship Commission Meeting**

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

**Ministry Directory:** Stewardship members have been contacting their assigned liaison ministries to update content and contact info for a 2007 Ministry Directory. Expected publish date is March/April 2007. Once the basic content and contact info is solid, we will then do some editing to insure consistency and formatting across ministries. A reminder that the intent of the Directory is that it provide a capsule description of the ministry, and not an in-depth description of the programs and curricula involved.

The bulk of the January meeting involved going through the current directory and categorizing each of the ministries into one of the following groupings: Faith Formation, Liturgy, Social Outreach, Guidance/Administration, and Affiliated. Rather than list the ministries alphabetically, we will list them by category/grouping.

New ministries to be added to the directory include: Alpha Program, Parish Nursing. Deletions include: Sunday Morning Nursery, Opus Dei Morning of Recollection, Neighborhood Cluster Group (replaced by Welcoming Committee). Two separate ministries for Holy Family Parish Support will be consolidated into one. Honduras Trip ministry may be consolidated into a more generic Youth Mission/Retreat ministry which could include, e.g. Hurricane Katrina relief, Honduras.

Further discussion is needed regarding the expected length-of-term commitment we will assign to each ministry. It is acknowledged that we want to encourage new parishioners to become involved, so we need to insure there are opportunities available. At the same time, we are sensitive to the fact that some parishioners truly enjoy their current ministry and may be reluctant to change. For some ministries and councils, there are archdiocesan guidelines as to length-of-term commitments. Our discussion will need to involve all these factors.

- ❖ Preparation and layout of the directory will require good Microsoft Word formatting skills. If anyone knows of someone who could possibly help with this, please forward the name.

**Discernment Guide:** In the preface/introduction of the Ministry Directory, there would be a reference to the accompanying Discernment Guide pamphlet. The guide is intended to support our baptismal commitment to share God's gifts with others. It will encourage a mutual discernment process, e.g. the person prays for guidance, and the parish provides opportunities and guidance/support.

### **Stewardship Treasure Component:**

We did not have time to discuss the Treasure component at the January meeting, but it is acknowledged that it is a priority for 2007. Since its inception, our Stewardship Commission has focused totally on the Time and Talent components of Stewardship.

The Stewardship Commission is asked to explore how we should approach this challenge. What should our message be? What kinds of actions can we take? What have other parishes and dioceses found successful in increasing the Treasure component?

We as a Stewardship Commission need to compile and absorb as much information as possible. As each of us find information we think is worthy of consideration, we should share it with the commission members.

- ❖ A few of us should read the well-received book “Why Catholics don’t give... and what can be done about it” by Charles Zech, an Economics professor at Villanova.
- ❖ Compile and distribute as much information as you find with a focus on the Treasure component of Stewardship.

The St. Louis diocese appears to have a vast amount of Stewardship information:

<http://www.archstl.org/stewardship/alive/archive/0610/action.html>

Here is guidance the St. Louis diocese provides for Electronic Offertory Giving (EOG)

<http://www.archstl.org/stewardship/alive/index.html>

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