

## Minutes of the January 8, 2009 Stewardship Commission Meeting

Attendees: Deacon John Nicholson, Fr. Michael Bova Conti, Elisa Riedl, Mark Nevils, Donna Biggins, Ted Vander Els, Jim McCarthy

### Review December Meeting minutes:

**Financial Update:** 2008 Grand Annual Collection ended ~23% below 2007 collection, likely due to current economic recession. Weekly offertory collections are less impacted.

**Stewardship Calendar:** We continue to schedule individual ministries to be featured at monthly Hospitality Sundays and Souper Saturdays:

Nov 1, 2	Honduras Mission Trip, Flower Committee	Complete
Dec 6, 7	Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Music Ministry	Complete
Jan 3, 4	Too busy after holidays – do not schedule	n/a
Jan 31, Feb 1	Pastoral Visitors, Children’s Liturgy of the Word	
Feb 28, Mar 1	Stewardship Commission, Parish Nursing, Knights of Columbus	
Mar 28, 29	Religious Ed/Catechists, and 1 or 2 others (PPC is considering this weekend)	
May 2, 3		

Results from Nov & Dec ministry features:

- Mission Honduras Trip: one adult possibly interested in future trip; several parents expressed interest for their children to participate in future trips
- Flower Committee: no new ministers
- Lectors: one new sign-up
- Eucharistic Ministers: one new sign-up
- Music Ministry: a new “Cherubs” group made their debut at Christmas liturgy.

**RCIA:** Deacon John contacted Fr. Brian Mahoney to discuss training available from the Archdiocesan Office of Worship and Spiritual Life. Look at taking RCIA training courses in the spring, and launching an RCIA program in autumn 2009.

**Breaking Bread Program:** We continued discussions on Donna Biggins’ proposal to launch a “Breaking Bread” program where 8-10 parishioners, randomly assigned, meet for a shared meal at a host’s home. No set agenda, casual conversations, mixed composition of older and newer parishioners. Frequency of the shared meals is being considered, e.g. every two months or every three months.

- ❖ Donna has forwarded a bulletin insert for review and comments, and a proposed launch plan. Enthusiasm for the program is running high!

**St. Vincent de Paul Ministry:** Deacon John proposes that the parish consider introducing this ministry, especially in light of the worsening economic climate. Encourage affected families spiritually, as well as financially. Focus is usually within the local parish.

- ❖ Deacon John to contact Deacon John Pepi (St. Bridget, Maynard) who has an active program running there.

**Stewardship Commission Objectives/Priorities:**

Consensus was Charles Zech book, *Best Practices in Catholic Stewardship*, may be a good base document to assess where our parish currently stands in terms of stewardship implementation, and where our focus and efforts may be best applied. We continue to assess how OLF stacks up versus Zech's eight best practices:

- 1. Be a Welcoming Parish:** (see December 2008 meeting minutes). Breaking Bread program would support this objective.
- 2. Appoint a Stewardship Council:** done, Stewardship Commission in place for several years.
- 3. Include Stewardship as a Vital Component of the Parish Plan:** Discussion focused on how to introduce, foster and position the concept of Catholic stewardship. Some thoughts:
  - Position stewardship as a virtue, similar to faith, hope, and love.
  - Position stewardship as a gift from God, e.g. who we are, where we are born, what talents we may have, are all God's doing, we did not attain them, they are gifts from God.
  - Position stewardship as an underlying/supportive framework for ministry groupings such as Liturgy, Faith Formation, Social Outreach, Guidance.
  - Consider whether we should promote stewardship from the Collaborative D (Wayland/Weston/Sudbury) viewpoint. Would it be feasible to have a Director of Stewardship for the collaborative?
  - We cannot promote OLF as a stewardship parish. That may be a long-term objective, but it will likely take us a few more years to get there.

**Next Monthly Stewardship Commission Meeting:** Thursday, February 5, 2009 at 7:30pm