

## **Minutes of the February 4, 2010 Stewardship Commission Meeting**

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

### **Review of January Meeting Minutes:**

#### **Stewardship Calendar:**

Hospitality Weekends. We are continuing the practice of giving individual parish ministries the opportunity to be featured at the monthly hospitality weekends. Currently planned schedule:

- Dec 5 & 6: St Vincent de Paul, Breaking Bread
- Jan 3: Parish Nursing
- Feb 7: Women's Spirituality Group, Men's Spirituality Group, Children's Liturgy
- Mar 6 & 7: Stewardship Commission, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Knights of Columbus
- May 1 & 2: Parish Pastoral Council, Finance Council

#### **RCIA Update:**

We should continue to promote RCIA themes and encourage individuals to come forward, especially those who may have been baptized but not confirmed.

- ❖ Consider doing some bulletin inserts encouraging RCIA

**St. Vincent de Paul Ministry Update:** St. Anselm's has been considering a St. Vincent de Paul ministry. We will extend an invitation for them to join us in the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Sudbury conference.

**Breaking Bread Update:** A combined Breaking Bread group meal, hosted by the parish, was held on Saturday, January 30, in the church hall. Sixty-six people participated in a relaxing, enjoyable evening meal. Consensus was this combined-gathering could be an annual event. Current number of Breaking Bread participants is 135, with plans to increase in numbers. The next Breaking Bread weekend is scheduled for the weekend of March 27/28.

**Collaborative Update:** There will be a Collaborative Lenten Mission, Monday, March 8 to Thursday, March 11, 7:00pm – 8:00pm. Monday St. Zepherin, Tuesday St. Julia, Wednesday St. Anselm, Thursday Our Lady of Fatima.

#### **OLF Ministry Directory:**

- ❖ Update the OLF Ministry Directory to add Breaking Bread and St. Vincent de Paul new ministries, and update the Welcoming Committee information.
- ❖ Do minor updates, e.g. contact names, then print booklets to be available for New Parishioner Welcoming packets.

**Parish Outreach:** Parishioner Georges Gemayel has taken the initiative to assemble a cross-section of OLF parishioners to explore possible ways to enrich our parish life. An introductory brainstorming session was held on February 11, with attendees expressing their perceptions and experiences as to themes such as welcoming, youth involvement, what it means to be Catholic,

why the attrition in church participation. It is important that the Stewardship Commission be tied into this initiative, since it has the potential to address a number of our key objectives/priorities.

### **Stewardship Commission Objectives/Priorities:**

Consensus was Charles Zech book, *Best Practices in Catholic Stewardship*, is 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. At the January meeting we reviewed our summary observations of the eight best practices, and immediate action we could take:

#### **1) Be a Welcoming Parish:**

- ❖ Reinforce the importance of the Welcoming Committee as a vital OLF ministry. Cindi LaRow has offered lead efforts to re-launch the Welcoming Committee.
- ❖ Breaking Bread and Welcoming Committee ministries should be tightly integrated, sharing information on new parishioners, and on current parishioners seeking to better know and love their parish family.
- ❖ Consider including personal greetings/introductions at the beginning of Mass on a regular basis.
- ❖ Parish appreciation dinner is scheduled for Saturday, March 20. Invitations have been extended.
- ❖ Identify and promote ministry opportunities which support social justice issues. Many of our newer parishioners come forward to help with outreach ministries where they see a need and a plan to address those needs, e.g. Holy Family summer camp, St. Vincent de Paul.

#### **5) Provide the Opportunity for Lay Witness Presentations:**

Consensus is we are weak in this area. More attention needed.

- ❖ Commission members are asked to continue to review our summary observations list and look for additional opportunities to take immediate actions to implement Zech's best practices. Forward any recommendations you may have.

**Next Monthly Stewardship Commission Meeting:** Thursday, March 4, 2010 at 7:30pm.