

## Minutes of the February 5, 2009 Stewardship Commission Meeting

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

**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	Done, follow-up
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 Jan 31/Feb 1 ministry features:

- Pastoral Visitors: three people expressed interest, need follow-up
- Children’s Liturgy: at least one signed up, need final results/follow-up
  
- ❖ Deacon John will confirm Knights participation for Feb 28/Mar 1, and Parish Pastoral Council for Mar 28/29.
  
- ❖ Stewardship Commission members are needed to staff the table at the Feb 28/Mar 1 ministry feature. Please confirm which after-Mass coverage you will be providing.

**RCIA:** Deacon John had contacted Fr. Brian Mahoney to discuss training available from the Archdiocesan Office of Worship and Spiritual Life. Plan is to take RCIA training courses in the spring, and launch an RCIA program in autumn 2009.

**St. Vincent de Paul Ministry:** Deacon John contacted Deacon John Pepi (St. Bridget, Maynard) who has an active ministry running there. Their program started in 1995. They typically get 5 or 6 people/families per month coming to them asking for some help with bills. Lay people look after the spiritual and temporal needs of parishioners. Deacon Pepi felt the best way to get started was to attend a monthly Council meeting in the area, to observe how the ministry functions.

Here is a ministry description from the St. Bridget’s website:

*“Through generous donations to the Poor Boxes, food and clothing drives and gift collections, we are able to provide food and clothes to the Food Pantry, AGAPE, and individuals in need, holiday meals and gifts to families who have none, including emergency assistance and financial help.”*

**Breaking Bread:** Donna Biggins continues to drive the launch of this new ministry opportunity. Parishioner interest and sign-ups have been very encouraging, e.g. 36 couples and 4 singles. We reviewed drafts of a welcome letter and host guidelines, which will be issued week of Feb 9. The welcome letter will be mailed out, on OLF letterhead.

We want to emphasize to hosts the need for simplicity, do not go overboard. The emphasis is on sharing a casual meal and getting to know each other, it is not intended as a gourmet club. For the initial round (Mar 7/8 weekend), it appears we may have eight groups of eight. Host names for this first round will be issued week of Feb 9.

**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:

- ❖ Jim McCarthy to create and maintain a separate document which includes all our discussions and actions regarding Zech's eight best practices

**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:

- With the enthusiasm for Breaking Bread building, the question was raised whether we could do something for young adult parishioners. The archdiocesan website indicates there are many Young Adult ministries within the archdiocese. This will be a topic for discussion at a future Stewardship Commission meeting.
- Although we do not have a formal parish plan, the Stewardship Commission could put together a list of tasks which the parish requires, and which would likely support a parish plan. For example, with the projected reduction in the number of available priests, parishioners must start assuming more administrative/maintenance tasks, allowing priests more time for sacramental/pastoral needs.

**Next Monthly Stewardship Commission Meeting:** Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at 7:30pm??  
Date to-be-confirmed.