

Minutes of the March 8, 2007 Stewardship Commission Meeting

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

Ministry Directory: There are still some ministries for which we do not have updated information. We'd like to complete this task within the next two weeks, so we can then complete the layout and formatting of the Directory.

- ❖ Deacon John will notify us which ministry information needs to be updated or is missing.
- ❖ Once we receive this information, Commission members are asked to confirm which ministries they will contact to complete the task.

We reviewed the Talent – Ministry matrix which Jim McCarthy drafted (see attached). The intent was to see if a graphical portrayal would be helpful in guiding individuals toward which ministries might be good fits for an individual's talents/personality traits. If there is agreement that the matrix has merits, we could then fine-tune what specific talents/personality traits we would want to include. The intent is that the matrix would be included within the Directory, but it should not be perceived as a gate to publishing the Directory.

- ❖ Jim McCarthy to add some explanatory information and examples to the matrix.

Stewardship Treasure Component (continued from Feb 2007 meeting discussion):

Continuation of discussion of Charles Zech's seven key recommendations to increase contributions, in his book "Why Catholics Don't Give.....And What Can be Done About It".

1) Build Community

Consensus is we have made progress on this in past 3-5 years. Examples of programs or initiatives which may have contributed to this progress include:

- Stewardship Ministry Fairs
- Monthly hospitality Sundays – brief discussion as to whether we should offer this more frequently than once per month.
- Commissioning/blessing of Catechists at Sunday liturgy
- Alpha program
- Expansion of Holy Family parish support, to include youth tutoring

The question was raised whether building "smaller communities" helps in building the larger parish community, and the consensus was yes it does. Programs like Moms, Dads, and Tots not only build community for younger families, but also build the parish community as a whole.

Zech reminds that "community building is a continuous undertaking – it never ends." So the Stewardship Commission needs to continue to watch for new opportunities to build community.

2) Give parishioners a role in parish decision-making processes

Zech says that the Post-Vatican II generation in particular is looking for transparency across the whole spectrum of parish life, not simply the financial area, and they would like to feel that, if they have an opinion or recommendation on a particular issue, they can be heard.

Zech says “Most of the parishioners I have spoken with recognize that, by canon law, the pastor has the final say in all parish decisions. Most parishioners are comfortable with that. All they are asking for is to be consulted, and for there to be transparency and accountability in all parish decisions.”

There are social justice issues like handicap accessibility and parish employee pay & benefits which are reviewed and discussed with parish councils and committees in a transparent process, but these do not need to be put to a vote by all parish members.

- ❖ To support the transparency and accountability of parish strategies and plans, the Stewardship Commission will continue to publish meeting minutes, and recommends that other councils and commissions also do so.

- ❖ A Saturday or Sunday meeting will be scheduled with a representative cross-section of parishioners to brainstorm and address what our parish priorities, needs, and plans should be to continue to build community. An external facilitator may be brought in to help guide the discussion. The timeframe for this meeting has not been set yet.

Next Stewardship Commission Meeting: Thursday, March 29, 2007 at 7:30pm.

