

## Minutes of the March 29, 2007 Stewardship Commission Meeting

Attendees: Fr. Michael Bova Conti, Julie Gibowicz, Mark Nevils, Jim McCarthy

**Ministry Directory:** We reviewed a spreadsheet which Deacon John compiled, showing which ministries still needed to be updated or submitted. 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.

- ❖ Jim McCarthy offered to chase down status on the missing ministry write-ups.
- ❖ Commission members are asked to review the spreadsheet and verify whether they have worked on any of the missing ministry write-ups. Ursula Lyons reported on several of them today.

**Ministry Groupings:** We reviewed the proposed ministry groupings for the Ministry Directory. No changes were made, so Deacon John can give these to Sherry Hutchins for the template for the Directory.

**Talent – Ministry Matrix:** Jim McCarthy reviewed the modified matrix which now includes two simple steps as to how to use the matrix. Step 1 is to assess where you think your talents and interests lie; Step 2 is to see which OLF ministries might best fit your talents and interests (see attached updated matrix).

### **Stewardship Treasure Component (continued from March 8, 2007 meeting discussion):**

#### **3) Develop Notion of Stewardship**

We will not be formally declaring ourselves to be a “Stewardship Parish” because this might have negative connotations to some. Many parishes who state “We are a Stewardship parish” have a formal tithing program and commitment. Instead, we will continue to reinforce the message that, through Baptism, we are stewards of the gifts and talents God has given us to share with others.

Consensus is the programs we have implemented since the inception of the Stewardship Commission have been on track to introduce and reinforce the notion of Stewardship, e.g. ministry fair, ministry directory, creation of new ministries, parish website Stewardship content. Also, Fr. Bova Conti frequently inserts stewardship messages into his homilies.

Zech recommends the New Beginnings program as a vehicle to introduce and foster Stewardship. We previewed and purchased this 3-video set two years ago, with the intent of implementing it. Rather than take the time at our meeting to re-review the 3 videos we could circulate them for review individually.

#### **4) Minimize the use of “Volunteers” – emphasize “Ministers”**

Discussion centered on the concept that being a steward is much more spiritually fulfilling than simply being a volunteer. We should show the differentiation between

ministry and volunteerism, e.g. stewardship involves opening up one's heart, or changing one's heart. There is more of a commitment and accountability in being a steward. At the same time, we should not over-apply the term "ministry." There are some tasks or assignments which are in fact volunteer tasks.

**5) Institute Pledging**

Fr. Bova Conti has already met with a local manager of Middlesex Bank regarding the process for implementing electronic payment of sacrificial offerings.

- ❖ Fr. Bova Conti will be meeting with Fr. Austin Fleming, pastor of Holy Family parish, Concord, and will ask him about the process and procedures they may have used to implement electronic giving.

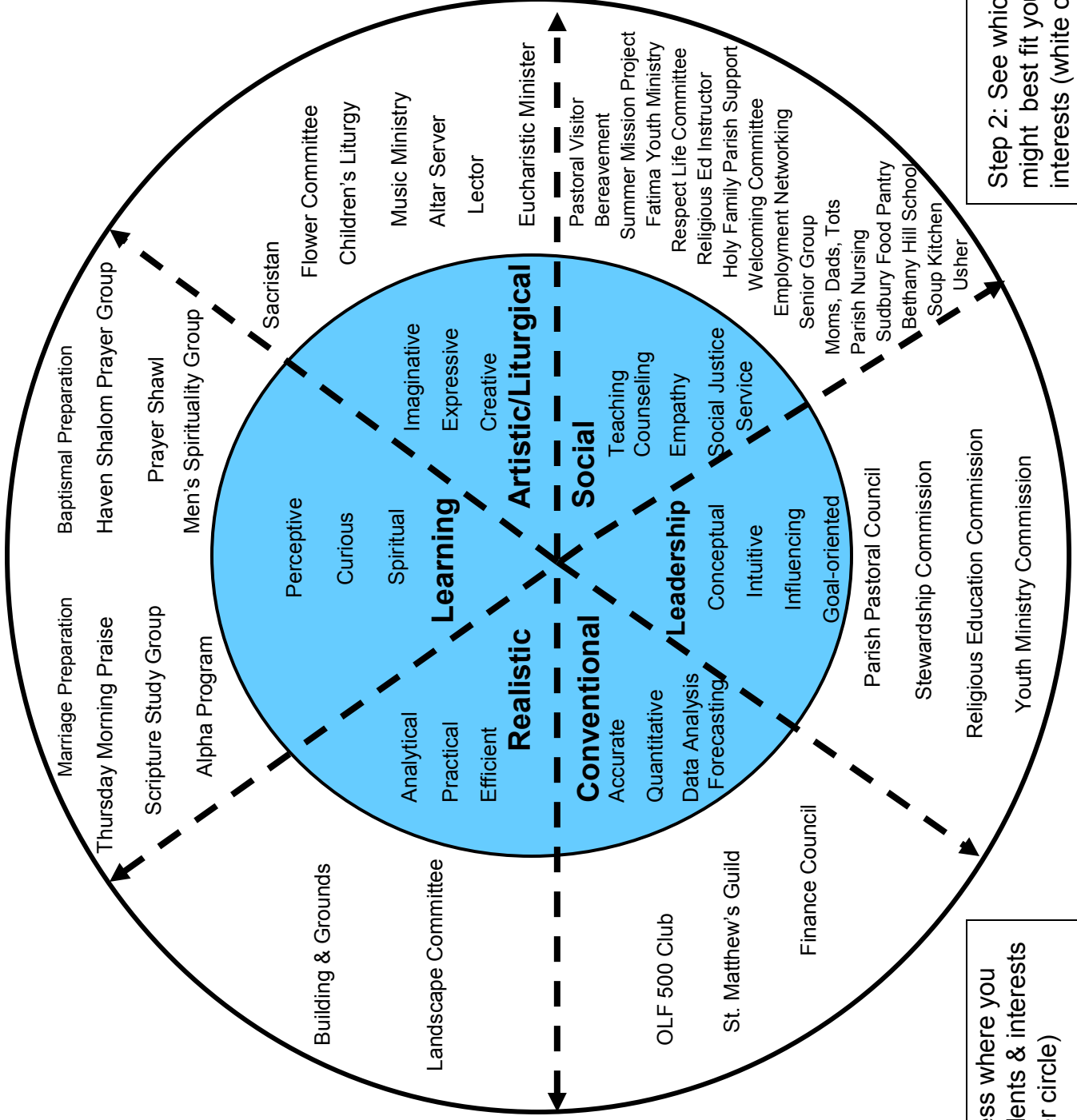
**6) Meet the special needs of parishioners**

Discussion centered on the fact that our parish consists heavily of families. How do we reinforce marriage as a sacrament? How often do couples pray together as a couple? What can we as a parish do more actively to support marriage as a sacrament; go beyond passively praying for married couples?

Our children are being exposed to more and more challenging issues. How do we as a parish support families in trying to cope with these issues? We need to continually reinforce to our children that the Church is always there for them, no matter what.

**Next Stewardship Commission Meeting:** Thursday, May 10, 2007 at 7:30pm

# Matching Your Talents to Our Lady of Fatima Ministries



Step 1: Assess where you think your talents & interests lie (blue inner circle)

Step 2: See which ministries might best fit your talents & interests (white outer circle)