

Minutes of the April 1, 2009 Stewardship Commission Meeting

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

Review of March Meeting Minutes:

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 needed
Feb 28, Mar 1	Stewardship Commission, Parish Nursing, Knights of Columbus	Done, follow-up needed
May 2, 3	Parish Pastoral Council, Breaking Bread, Religious Education	

Results from Feb 28/Mar 1 ministry features:

- Stewardship Commission: no new sign-ups
- ❖ Deacon John to confirm with Sheila Leonard and Terry Keeney whether there were any sign-ups for Parish Nursing and Knights of Columbus
- ❖ Deacon John will confirm Religious Ed and PPC participation for May 2/3 weekend.
- ❖ Jim McCarthy to ask John Ollquist about Holy Family May or June participation

RCIA Update: 6-week Archdiocesan Office of Worship and Spiritual Life RCIA workshop starts Apr 15 at St. Paul’s in Wellesley (7:00 – 9:00pm). Deacon John and Ted Vander Els are scheduled to take this RCIA training, and plan to launch an RCIA program in autumn 2009. Deacon John cannot make Apr 15, Apr 22, May 13 sessions, so someone could take his place. It is important to have females as part of the RCIA team, so names of potential female candidates are welcomed.

St. Vincent de Paul Ministry Update: Deacon John contacted Deacon John Pepi (St. Bridget, Maynard) who has an active ministry running there. Deacon Pepi felt the best way for us to get started was to attend a monthly Council meeting in the area, to observe how the ministry functions. Deacon John and Ted Vander Els were to attend the Apr 2 meeting at St. Bridget’s, and will report back.

Breaking Bread Update: Parishioner interest and sign-ups continue to be encouraging, we are now up to 105 participants (49 couples, 7 individuals). The second round of meals is scheduled

for May 16/17 weekend, and current projection is 75-80 participants. Currently have six hosts for May, seeking two or three additional hosts.

The Stewardship Commission's intent is that, by Sept 2009, Breaking Bread will be positioned as a new OLF ministry requiring coordination and staffing. As such, Breaking Bread will be included within the OLF Ministry Directory, have defined objectives, duties, and qualifications, and parishioners will be sought to staff this ministry.

Collaborative Update: Work continues within the Wayland/Weston/Sudbury parishes. It is important that parishioners understand that collaboration among parishes is of critical importance. The Commission agreed it is sad that some people have become angry because their parishes have been closed or reconfigured. All parishes, including OLF, are already being impacted, and can expect to experience further change as the demographics evolve.

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:

- 4) **Emphasize stewardship in all parish formation and education programs:** Our discussion focused on assessing to what extent we think stewardship is integrated into our Religious Education programs. Some observations:
 - The summer programs include stewardship.
 - The Youth programs include stewardship, e.g. in senior year, youth are expected to share their talents in a variety of ministries.
 - Holy Family youth mentoring and Mission Honduras trip include stewardship.
 - We need to discuss with Susan Murphy and Patti Cappelloni to what extent our religious education courses include stewardship
 - We may not be formally using the term "stewardship" but we should make a concerted effort to do so. Avoid using the term "volunteer." Our Men's and Women's Groups should be considered as part of Adult Education.
 - The quarterly Collaborative adult education seminars, hosted by St. Anselm's, should be considered an extension of our OLF Adult Education.
 - We should take another look at whether we should implement the New Beginnings program developed by Paul Wilkes Here is the link to New Beginnings:
<http://www.nbontheweb.com/christian/how.asp>
 - Possible next steps:
 - ❖ Meet with Susan Murphy, Patti Cappelloni, and Religious Education Commission to strategize how we can further educate on the concept of stewardship
 - ❖ Then meet with Religious Education Instructors/Catechists to reinforce the stewardship vision.
 - Our phased approach may be:
 - 1) Educate on the concept of stewardship

- 2) Use the term “stewardship” more frequently
- 3) Look for opportunities to implement stewardship more in our religious education programs

Next Monthly Stewardship Commission Meeting: Thursday, May 7, 2009 at 7:30pm