

Minutes of the April 3, 2008 Stewardship Commission Meeting

Attendees: Deacon John Nicholson, Fr. Michael Bova Conti, Elisa Riedl, Ursula Lyons, Mark Nevils, Jim McCarthy, Susan Edwards (Archdiocesan Office of Stewardship)

Archdiocesan Office of Stewardship: Susan Edwards joined us to provide information regarding the archdiocesan office, and to observe and learn how the OLF Stewardship Commission functions. Of the ~300 parishes in the archdiocese, 54 currently have Stewardship Commissions and 27 who have expressed interest in starting one. We had a discussion about what it might mean to “be a stewardship parish.” We agreed it is more important to focus on positioning Stewardship as a lifetime calling through our Baptism. Susan reported that she will be offering a mini-workshop on May 31 focusing on how to develop annual parish reports, and on communications.

Ministry Directory & Gifts Discernment Guide: We agreed to distribute additional directories and guides at Masses in May, possibly on Pentecost Sunday. We will also make them available for inclusion within the welcoming kit for new parishioners. They will also be made available on the parish website.

Mar 8 & 9 Ministry Fair Debriefing: General feeling was that the Fair had its pluses and minuses. Here are some of the observations:

- Daylight-savings time change is felt to have been the biggest negative factor.
- Attendance at the 9:30am Mass was much lighter than normal. In previous fairs, the 9:30 was the most productive Mass.
- The 9:30 Mass also lasted a little longer than normal.
- Getting children to Religious Ed classes may have diverted parents.
- We could have done more marketing and PR; should consider distributing some informational materials in advance of the next fair.
- Consider developing an ongoing invitation, e.g. putting sign-up cards in the pews.
- Accomplished a good sense of community.
- Soup Kitchen sign-ups were strong, probably due to effective recruiting by Mary Novak-Wilson.
- Parish Nursing and Landscaping ministries drew strong interest.
- Women’s Group, a brand new ministry, was well-received.
- Food was excellent.
- Ministries did an excellent job developing their exhibits.
- Exhibit space was adequate, in spite of construction project.
- Face-painting was under- utilized.
- Consider featuring 2 or 3 ministries at Hospitality Sundays, using the exhibits already available.

Ministry Fair Follow-up: Deacon John provided a spreadsheet containing names, contact details of those who submitted sign-up cards.

- Stewardship Commission members are asked to contact the ministry leaders for their liaison ministries. Provide them with the names and contact details, and ask them to close the loop with those who expressed interest, within the next two weeks.

Next Monthly Stewardship Commission Meeting: Thursday, May 1, 2008 at 7:30pm

Agenda will include:

- Results of Ministry Fair follow-up
- Bring a Friend to Church!
- New commission members
- Update on Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) planned implementation