

Minutes of the May 1, 2008 Stewardship Commission Meeting

Attendees: Deacon John Nicholson, Fr. Michael Bova Conti, Ursula Lyons, Mark Nevils, Jim McCarthy

Mar 8 & 9 Ministry Fair Follow-up: In April, Deacon John provided a spreadsheet containing names, contact details of those who submitted sign-up cards.

- ❖ Stewardship Commission members are reminded 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.

- ❖ Update the spreadsheet with current status and email the spreadsheet back to Deacon John.

Ministry Directory & Gifts Discernment Guide: We agreed to distribute additional directories and guides at Masses on May 17 & 18. Stuff the Guide and sign-up card into the Directory.

- ❖ Need Stewardship volunteer speakers to speak for 1-2 minutes at the conclusion of May 17 & 18 Masses to announce availability of the materials and give a brief pitch for Stewardship.

We will also make the Directory and Guide available for inclusion within the welcoming kit for new parishioners. They will also be made available on the parish website.

Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) planned implementation: We reviewed the basics behind the ParishPay program, e.g. fees, how it is introduced and managed, in what time installments would we prefer to see donations made. Some of our facts and thoughts:

- Fee is \$1 per donation, plus 1% of the donated amount (Example: a \$100 monthly donation would have a \$1 fee, plus 1% fee, so the parish would realize \$98).
- Given this fee structure, we would like to encourage monthly (not weekly) EFT giving. Limit ParishPay to monthly giving.
- We do not want to offer credit card payments through ParishPay (they are currently offered on the OLF portal, so we should have that option disabled).
- Envelope users & checks (identified givers) account for ~86% of offertory collections.
- We have ~170 - 210 identified givers each week.
- Special collections typically run \$600 - \$2,000. The thought is we would not post special collections on our ParishPay portal.
- We should also encourage Bill-Pay giving for those who already use this product and would prefer to use it.

Action items for Stewardship members:

- ❖ Each of us should go onto the ParishPay website and check it out: www.parishpay.com Click on the "Already know where you want to give" link.
- ❖ Verify whether this direct sign-up via the web would be easier, more discreet than us collecting sign-up cards with usernames and passwords (oops, leading the witness!)
- ❖ Before summer departures, publish a bulletin insert and a mass-mailing letter, using the ParishPay base marketing materials, encouraging people to consider EFT giving, using either ParishPay or Bill Pay.

- ❖ Reinforce the reality that, while parishioners go away on vacation, our parish expenses do not go on vacation. We need summer offertory giving.
- ❖ In the autumn, develop a broader Stewardship giving program, which complements our Time and Talent components.

Parish Pastoral Planning Document: There is a parish-wide meeting to review and discuss the archdiocesan document which summarizes demographics, trends, and projections, e.g. number of priests, number of parishes, sharing resources, role of laity, parish administration.

- ❖ Stewardship members are urged to read the report (there is a link on the OLF website) and attend the Wednesday, May 28 meeting.

Next Monthly Stewardship Commission Meeting: Thursday, June 5, 2008 at 7:30pm

Agenda will include:

- ❖ Results of Ministry Fair follow-up
- ❖ May 28 Parish Pastoral Planning meeting feedback
- ❖ Bring a Friend to Church!
- ❖ New commission members
- ❖ Update on Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) planned implementation