

Minutes of the May 7, 2009 Stewardship Commission Meeting

Attendees: Deacon John Nicholson, Fr. Michael Bova Conti, Donna Biggins, Jenn Sneath, Ted Vander Els, Mark Nevils, Jim McCarthy

Review of April 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	
Feb 28, Mar 1	Stewardship Commission, Parish Nursing, Knights of Columbus	Nursing had one sign-up
May 2, 3	Parish Pastoral Council	Complete

Results from Feb and May ministry features:

- ❖ Deacon John to confirm with Terry Keeney whether there were any sign-ups for Knights of Columbus
- ❖ No new sign-ups for PPC; currently looking for 3 or 4 new members to replace current members rotating off the council.
- ❖ Jim McCarthy to talk to John Ollquist about his annual Holy Family summer camp appeal, plus his plans for providing more opportunities for Holy Family ministry involvement. Recommendation is to treat the summer camp appeal and expanded ministry possibilities as two separate activities rather than on the same weekend.

RCIA Update: Unfortunately, the 6-week Archdiocesan Office of Worship and Spiritual Life RCIA workshop starting Apr 15 at St. Paul’s in Wellesley was cancelled due to low enrollment. Deacon John and Ted Vander Els had been registered to attend

- ❖ Deacon John will see whether the Worcester Diocese may have a program scheduled.

St. Vincent de Paul Ministry Update: Deacon John, Ted Vander Els, and Claire Nicholson attended the Apr 2 conference meeting at St. Bridget’s, Maynard. The Maynard conference has 15 board members, has an outlay of ~\$1,000 per month, consisting of one-time emergency assistance, e.g. help with fuel/utility bills. Spirituality is an essential part of the conference, so meetings include prayer sessions.

Ted Vander Els also met with Martha Lynn, Town of Sudbury social worker, to learn about the HOPEsudbury program for short-term financial assistance for individuals and families. Martha sometimes refers requests for assistance to our parish.

- ❖ Deacon John, Ted, Claire will next attend a conference meeting at Holy Family parish in Concord to learn more about their ministry.
- ❖ Post a St. Vincent de Paul new ministry notice in the May 10 weekly bulletin, advising that we are seeking 15 members for the board.

- ❖ Look at possibility of bringing out a chapter (archdiocesan) representative in June to review our plans and requirements.

Breaking Bread Update: We continue to seek new members. New parishioners are being contacted to invite them to participate. The second round of meals is scheduled for May 16/17 weekend, with eight groups being hosted.

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. The next collaborative meeting is Monday, May 11, at OLF. Pastors feel we should do some things together, but so far, there have not been any substantial collaborative actions recommended. The archdiocese has recently appointed a new Director of Pastoral Planning who is expected to provide further guidance in addressing the May 2007 Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning Report.

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:

5) Provide the opportunity for lay witness presentations: It was suggested we should look at possibly two or three lay witness presentations per year. John Ollquist's annual Holy Family Summer Camp appeal could be considered a lay witness presentation:

- ❖ Jim McCarthy to ask John Ollquist to include the term "stewardship" in his talk, and encourage parishioners to "share their time and talents" in helping to run the summer camp activities.

If the witness presentations occur during Mass, it was felt that it might be better to do them immediately after the homily versus at the conclusion of Mass. We would need to identify what the reason for the witness presentation is, i.e. have a specific objective in mind when selecting the lay witnesses, and insure that the witness talk supports the objective.

We also discussed the possibility of reintroducing the profiles of individuals/couples sharing their faith/stewardship stories, similar to what was included in the on-line monthly newsletter we launched a few years ago. This would also be similar to the "Living the Faith" profiles The Pilot publishes weekly. It was suggested that some of our Fatima Youth Ministry members might appreciate the opportunity to interview the individuals/couples and write the profiles.

Next Monthly Stewardship Commission Meeting: Thursday, June 4, 2009 at 7:30pm