

## **Minutes of the June 4, 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 May 7 Meeting Minutes:**

#### **Stewardship Calendar:**

Results from Feb and May ministry features:

- ❖ Deacon John has asked Terry Keeney to confirm 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.
- ❖ John Ollquist has identified possible stewardship opportunities at Holy Family Parish/Pope John Paul II Academy. John hosted an informational meeting on May 20 for interested parishioners, has received some commitments, and will be seeking more.

#### **RCIA Update:**

Since the planned April 15 RCIA workshop by the Boston Archdiocese was cancelled, Deacon John contacted David Vaillancourt from the Worcester Diocese to see if they may have a program scheduled. David has provided information on multi-day programs or convocations in Springfield and Providence.

**St. Vincent de Paul Ministry Update:** Ted Vander Els attended a May conference meeting at Holy Family parish in Concord to learn more about their ministry. Concord receives most funding from a small number of contributors, rather than via "poor box" donations. They have 14 members on their board, plus some associate members who do not necessarily need to be Catholic. It is a hands-on ministry including food, clothing, and cash disbursements (~\$4,000 per month). Typically a male and a female member of the ministry team visit the recipient individual/family to assess the need. Concord typically has 10-12 clients per month from a broad economic cross-section.

The Holy Family monthly conference meeting consists of an opening prayer, spiritual reflection, review of needs/disbursements, action items, and closing prayer.

During May and June we have posted notices in our parish bulletin and email blasts that we are in the process of introducing a St. Vincent de Paul conference at our parish. In order to initiate a conference here, we are seeking fifteen people to form a board. As of June 4, eight parishioners have expressed interest. An informational meeting is being planned.

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

**Breaking Bread Update:** The second round of meals was held on the May 16/17 weekend, with ~75 attendees at eight host homes. Feedback again was positive. The third round is scheduled for the July 11/12 weekend. We continue to seek new members and will launch a renewed invitation at the end of the summer.

The Stewardship Commission's intent is that, by October 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 May 11 meeting was held at OLF. The next collaborative meeting is Monday, June 22, at St. Ann's in Wayland.

**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:

- 6) **Encourage parishioners to make a commitment to the parish by pledging:** We discussed the concept of pledging and some of the contribution patterns we currently experience at OLF, e.g.
  - ~86% of our Offertory collections are identifiable (envelopes, checks, EFT payments). This represents ~492 individuals/families.
  - ~75 families give \$1,000 or more per year.
  - Grand Annual collection covers ~20% of the expense budget, Offertory collection covers ~50%.
  - EFT/BillPay electronic fund payments could be considered a form of pledging, since the parishioner considers in advance a monthly/yearly contribution.
  - It was agreed that pledging should not be confused with tithing.
  - It was agreed that we should consider pledging treasure in conjunction with pledging time and talent, as part of our Stewardship strategy and planning.
  - At our next meeting in September we will continue discussion on pledging, plus move on to Zech's final two best practices
  
- ❖ Jim McCarthy to distribute to the Commission the separate document which consolidates all our discussions and actions regarding Zech's eight best practices

**Next Monthly Stewardship Commission Meeting:** Thursday, Sept 10, 2009 at 7:30pm