

## Minutes of the June 7, 2006 Stewardship Commission Meeting

Attendees: Ursula Lyons, Deacon John Nicholson, Bill Starr, Jim McCarthy

**Comments on Alpha Presentation:** Comments were mixed, primarily around whether it was a generic Christian program or whether it can be tailored to be more Catholic-focused. Although the video we reviewed in May did not highlight it, there is the probability that the small group sessions would be held in people's homes rather than at church. It is felt that a gradual buildup of these small Catholic communities could enhance evangelization. Bert Sellier will be talking more to Susan Murphy about the Alpha program. The first opportunities we could have to participate would be in Aug or Dec.

### Review Minutes of April 5, 2006 Meeting:

**Ministry Directory:** The updated Ministry Directory has been put on the parish website, plus is available for hardcopy distribution to new parishioners in a welcoming kit.

- ❖ Will need to be updated to reflect Sister Brenda's leaving.
- ❖ Need to assign responsibility for developing a card similar to St. Zepherin's listing key ministry contacts.

**Spotlight/Hospitality Sundays:** The April 30 Welcoming Mass resulted in a smaller percentage of attendees than expected. The after-Mass reception was a bit chaotic, could have been more structured, but several members reported positive one-on-one discussions with new parishioners. It was felt that having a Welcoming Mass twice per year might be more effective – a Sept/Oct Mass could attract the summer move-ins.

- ❖ Look at the feasibility of adding pictures to the parish web site, featuring a specific ministry.
- ❖ Look at the feasibility of featuring a specific ministry in the monthly parish newsletter:
  - June – Holy Family sister parish
  - September – Music and Fatima Youth ministries
  - October – Respect Life
  - November – Stewardship
  - December – Outreach ministries

**PPC Strategic Planning:** A meeting was held on Mar 13, with representation from the PPC, Finance Council, parish staff, and Stewardship Commission, to discuss where we want to be in the next five years, and how we would get there. The intent is to form a 10-12 member planning taskforce, representing a broad cross-section of the parish family. This taskforce is still in the formative stage.

**Stewardship Vision:** At our Sept meeting we will continue reviewing the Jan 2004 PowerPoint presentation to assess how we as a Stewardship Commission are progressing. One of the Vision goals for the parish is "Enhance the vitality of the parish and deepen its faith development."

There are various ways of assessing this goal, some of which may not be quantifiable.

One area where we need to apply more focus is to provide leadership training and support to new ministry leaders. Some people may have received organizational and leadership skills training through their employers, but we cannot assume this.

- ❖ Explore how we could best provide organizational and leadership skills training and support to new ministry leaders.

**Ministry Commissioning:** We had a discussion regarding the potential advantages of formal annual commissioning of ministries, e.g. when Catechists are asked to come forward during Mass, be blessed in their ministry, and sent forward. In addition to the blessing, this can be a good witness opportunity and provide some recognition for sharing gifts in service to others. At the heavily-attended Villanova Parent's Weekend Mass, each of the ministries is called forward as a group, asked to pledge their commitment, is blessed, and sent forward. A very powerful witness opportunity.

**Goals for 2006/2007:** At our Sept meeting, we will re-evaluate the New Beginnings program to see whether we should implement it. There was a discussion that we need to develop, motivate, and retain current ministry participants, while also attracting new participants.

**Stewardship Chairperson:** While Deacon John has graciously served as ex officio chairperson for the initial three years of the commission, he would like a new chairperson appointed now for the 2006/2007 ministry year.

**New Stewardship Commission Members:** The consensus is that the optimum number of commission members is 10-12, so we should look to recruit an additional 4-6 parishioners.

❖ Deacon John will draft a letter inviting recommended parishioners to join the commission, starting with the Sept meeting. The letter will go out in the next two weeks, and ask invitees to respond within two weeks.

**Next Stewardship Commission Meeting:** Thursday, Sept 7, 2006 at 7:30pm. Agenda will include:

- Introduction on new Stewardship Commission members
- Review of Jun 7 meeting minutes
- Continue Review of Jan 2004 Stewardship Vision document
- Goals for 2006/2007
- Need to provide organizational and leadership skills training and support
- Ministry Commissioning