

Minutes of the September 6, 2007 Stewardship Commission Meeting

Attendees: Fr. Michael Bova Conti, Deacon John Nicholson, Julie Gibowicz, Elisa Riedl, Mark Nevils, Bert Sellier, Ursula Lyons, Jim McCarthy

New Members: A reminder that we want representation on the Commission to reflect the demographics of the parish. If anyone feels a parishioner might be a good addition to the Commission, please forward the name to Deacon John.

Archdiocesan Stewardship Survey: Susan Edwards, the newly-hired Coordinator of Parish Stewardship for the Archdiocese of Boston, sent us a brief survey as to our current status regarding Stewardship implementation. We completed the survey during the meeting, and expressed the need for more help at the region and vicariate level. Acknowledging that parish resources are limited, we would like the opportunity to share resources, training, expertise with other parishes.

Ministry Directory: There is still a fair amount of work to do to complete this task. Although we have most of the write-ups, we need more editing to insure consistency of content and format. We briefly reviewed three directories from other parishes, as to content, format, and probable printing costs. The priority for us is to complete the editing of content and format; then we can select the printing/color/graphics.

- ❖ We agreed to have separate meetings to complete the editing. We will meet next Thurs, Sep 13, at 7:30, for those who can make it.

Goals for 2007/2008:

Treasure: Consensus is we need to implement an Electronic Fund Transfer program as soon as possible. Some parishioners have already expressed interest, and it is likely our summer 2007 offertory collections would have been higher if we had an EFT program in place.

There are several different programs available. The archdiocese is sponsoring an informational session on Sep 19 (at St. John's Seminary), at which some of the vendors will be available, and some parishes may describe their experience so far. We will want to minimize any additional administrative tasks to implement EFT.

- ❖ Mark Nevils to research how Holy Family (Concord) and St. Elizabeth (Acton) are implementing EFT.
- ❖ Jim McCarthy to research how St. Patrick (Lawrence) is implementing EFT, and whether they are satisfied with it. (They are using ParishPay). Attached is a link to the St Patrick/ParishPay program:

http://www.saintpatrickparish.com/html/parish_pay.html

Once we select a program, then we can approach how to best market/promote the EFT program.

Ministry Fair: Since we have not had a Ministry Fair the past two years, and we see value in conducting another one, the consensus is to plan one for 2008, maybe during Lent.

- Check the 2008 parish calendar to determine a good weekend for a Ministry Fair.

We need to think about our key objectives for the Ministry Fair. What benefits do we expect to derive from our efforts? Recruit new ministers? Guide current ministers to possibly change to a new ministry? Help build community within the parish?

Other items:

- Welcoming Committee is planning an autumn reception for newly registered parishioners.
- Alpha ministry is planning a reunion of the 42 Alpha graduates from the Jan 2007 program on Sat, Oct 13, after the 5:00pm Mass. Next Alpha program starts in Jan 2008.

Next Stewardship Commission Meeting: Thursday, Oct 4, 2007 at 7:30pm