

Minutes of the September 10, 2009 Stewardship Commission Meeting

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

Review of June 4 Meeting Minutes:

Stewardship Calendar:

Hospitality Weekends. We plan to continue the practice of giving individual parish ministries the opportunity to be featured at the monthly hospitality weekends:

- ❖ Deacon John to verify the monthly Souper Saturday and Hospitality Sunday schedules, and will then email the ministry leaders inviting them to sign up for a weekend which might support their specific needs.

RCIA Update:

There is nothing new to report from the archdiocesan perspective. The Office of Worship is currently going through a transition, and there are no RCIA workshops currently scheduled. The consensus, however, is that we should continue to promote RCIA themes and encourage individuals to come forward, especially those who may have been baptized but not confirmed.

- ❖ Develop an implementation plan to consistently promote RCIA principles and encourage people to come forward, using the parish bulletin, monthly newsletter, posters, etc.
- ❖ Ted Vander Els to review the current procedure as to how we capture data on interested people and how follow-up occurs.

St. Vincent de Paul Ministry Update: Significant progress was made during the summer months. The “St. Vincent de Paul Society, Sudbury” conference is now up and running. Initial officers include: Ted Vander Els, Claire Nicholson, Marisa Helgeson, Patti Dykes. There are ~15 initial conference members, several of whom are new to parish ministry and are much welcomed.

- ❖ Announce the establishment of this new ministry at weekend Masses, the bulletin, parish website, newsletter, local press.

Methods for soliciting donations and “poor box” implementation are being considered.

Breaking Bread Update: The third round of meals was held on the Jul 11/12 weekend, with 54 attendees. Feedback again was positive. The fourth round is scheduled for the Sept 19/20 weekend, with at least 90 confirmed attendees. We continue to seek new members and will launch a renewed invitation now that parishioners have returned from summer vacations.

The Stewardship Commission’s intent continues to be that 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. Fr. David Couturier, OFM Cap., the new archdiocesan Director of Pastoral Planning, attended the most recent collaborative meeting. He listened to discussions of collaborative issues, and he

talked about mission-based pastoral planning. Everything we do should be in support of a mission statement, and Parish Pastoral Councils need to become more planning-oriented.

Library Idea: Donna Biggins wonders whether the religious education/parish library could be enhanced and more widely utilized by parishioners. Donna suggested looking at the “LibraryThing” website to assess whether it would be helpful in cataloguing our inventory, and showing parishioners what is available. There was a reminder that book circulation procedures and tracking can be a challenge.

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:

- 7) **Communicate with parishioners on Stewardship:** We agreed that we should re-introduce the electronic newsletter, but before doing so we should identify the key topic areas:
 - ❖ At each of our monthly Stewardship meetings, suggest a topic area to feature for the next newsletter.
 - ❖ Evaluate upgrading the parish website.
 - ❖ Ask Kevin Matthews for his advice and help with public relations, e.g. local media coverage

It was agreed that the Sep 4 Pilot “Living the Faith” feature on John & Mary Toland was a well-done portrayal of Stewardship by OLF parishioners (see weblink):

<http://www.thebostonpilot.com/article.asp?ID=10788>

- 8) **Remember that good stewardship starts in the parish house:** It was agreed that we are doing the right things in this regard.

At our next Stewardship meeting, we will review our consolidated *Best Practices* discussion summary and identify some stewardship enhancements we can pursue now.

Next Monthly Stewardship Commission Meeting: Thursday, Oct 1, 2009 at 7:30pm (or possibly Oct 8)