

## **Minutes of the October 1, 2009 Stewardship Commission Meeting**

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

### **Review of September 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, starting in December.

Scheduling a November feature is not feasible since Souper Saturday is November 7, and Sunday November 1 includes an 11:30am bereavement Mass and reception.

- ❖ Deacon John to email ministry leaders inviting them to sign up for a weekend, starting in December, which might support their specific needs.

**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.

- ❖ Donna to discuss library history with John & Faith Wilson, and library possibilities with Clare Korzeniowski

#### **RCIA Update:**

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:** This new ministry was formally announced in September. Now we need donations and clients. Meetings will generally be scheduled for the third Thursday of the month. Ted is working on the installation of “poor boxes” for donations.

**Breaking Bread Update:** The fourth round of meals occurred on the Sept 19/20 weekend, with 63 attendees. There were a number of last-minute cancellations due to hectic September/back-to-school schedules. The fifth round is scheduled for the November 14/15 weekend. We continue to seek new members:

- ❖ Send November invitation to the wider ConstantContact parishioner email distribution list, in addition to the Breaking Bread email distribution list.
- ❖ Reach out to parents of recently-baptized, inviting them to participate.

**Collaborative Update:** Work continues within the Wayland/Weston/Sudbury parishes. Meetings resume in October.

### **Stewardship Commission Objectives/Priorities:**

Consensus was Charles Zech book, *Best Practices in Catholic Stewardship*, is 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. At the October meeting we reviewed our summary observations of the eight best practices, and immediate action we could take:

#### **1) Be a Welcoming Parish:**

- ❖ Deacon John to email Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers reminding them that they should arrive early and lend greeter support as people arrive for Mass.
- ❖ Donna Biggins to consider contacting newly-registered parishioners to invite them to join Breaking Bread.
- ❖ Reinforce the importance of the Welcoming Committee as an OLF ministry. Ask Ursula Lyons how Stewardship Commission can help.
- ❖ Identify ways of distributing newly-registered parishioner information, without violating privacy protocols.
- ❖ Identify and promote ministry opportunities which support social justice issues. Many of our newer parishioners come forward to help with outreach ministries where they see a need and a plan to address those needs, e.g. Holy Family summer camp, St. Vincent de Paul.

#### **5) Provide the Opportunity for Lay Witness Presentations:**

Consensus is we are weak in this area. More attention needed.

- ❖ Commission members are asked to continue to review our summary observations list and look for additional opportunities to take immediate actions to implement Zech's best practices. Forward any recommendations you may have.

**Next Monthly Stewardship Commission Meeting:** Thursday, Nov 5, 2009 at 7:30pm.