

Minutes of the October 2, 2008 Stewardship Commission Meeting

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

Welcome to new members: The commission welcomes Donna Biggins and Ted Vander Els. Both have been involved in a number of ministries, so we appreciate their viewpoints and recommendations. We will continue to look for two additional new members.

Charles Zech book “Best Practices in Parish Stewardship”: This book builds upon Zech’s earlier book “Why Catholics Don’t Give, and What Can Be Done About It” The earlier book focused on the treasure component of stewardship, whereas the new book covers time, talent, and treasure components. The “Best Practices” book should help us in setting objectives and quantifiable measurements.

- ❖ Deacon John to order books for commission members

Collaborative D Update: Regular dialogues have started among the parishes of Sudbury, Wayland, and Weston. Parish staffs seem very receptive to the collaboration. Some of the tougher issues have not been addressed yet, but will be.

Stewardship Calendar: The commission reviewed the letter Deacon John had drafted to ministry leaders, informing them of our plan to feature two or three ministries at the monthly Hospitality Sundays (including Souper Saturdays). The date that a particular ministry is featured should be done with a perspective toward when they would be seeking new ministers. Ministries will be advised that they can utilize their exhibits from the 2008 Ministry Fair. Ministries leaders will also be encouraged to attend a Stewardship Commission meeting if they want advice or help in staffing or promoting their ministry.

- ❖ Deacon John to email letter to ministry leaders.

Bring a Friend to Church Sunday! Deacon John described a program implemented in Feb 2008 by St. Mary Parish, Lynn. He had a phone discussion with Jaye Russo who described the process they went through. They kicked it off at Christmas Masses, announcing the February date. They highly publicized the event and reported success. They had an overflow crowd of 1,100 people at the designated Mass! We will further evaluate this program to determine if it would support our 2009 objectives and priorities.

2009 Stewardship Commission Objectives: Time will be allotted at our November meeting to discuss objectives, priorities, and possible measurement criteria. The Zech book “Best Practices” should provide a helpful framework to sense how Our Lady of Fatima parish stacks up versus similar parishes in terms of time, talent, and treasure.

Next Monthly Stewardship Commission Meeting: Thursday, November 6, 2008 at 7:30pm