

Minutes of the November 6, 2008 Stewardship Commission Meeting

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

Welcome to new member: The commission welcomes Jennifer Sneath. A wife, mother of three, and investment management professional, we appreciate her viewpoint and recommendations. We will continue to look for one or two additional new members.

Stewardship Calendar: Deacon John emailed the letter 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 were advised that they can utilize their exhibits from the 2008 Ministry Fair. Ministry leaders were also encouraged to attend a Stewardship Commission meeting if they want advice or help in staffing or promoting their ministry. Proposed calendar:

Nov 1, 2	Honduras Mission Trip, Flower Committee	Done
Dec 6, 7	Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Music Ministry	
Jan 3, 4	Too busy after holidays – do not schedule	
Jan 31, Feb 1	Pastoral Visitors	
Feb 28, Mar 1	Stewardship Commission, Parish Nursing, Knights of Columbus	
Mar 28, 29	Religious Ed/Catechists, and 1 or 2 others	
May 2, 3		

- ❖ Jim McCarthy to contact Chris Hammer (Honduras Trip) and Carol Hammer (Flowers) to verify if follow-up is required for Nov 1, 2 interested attendees.
- ❖ Ted Vander Els to contact Paul Coughlin regarding Dec 6, 7 Lector participation, and Joan Coughlin for Eucharistic Ministers. The commission expressed the observation that new Lectors and new Eucharistic Ministers are needed.
- ❖ Deacon John to contact John Reardon regarding Parish Pastoral Council participation.

Commission members suggested the following ministries may need additional ministers: Child Safety Team, Altar Servers, Youth Commission, Parish Council.

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 discussed some of our parish demographic information: 1,089 average number of weekend Mass attendees, number of “active” parish families versus the ~1,500 families in our database. Knowing that building parish community has been an identified need for OLF, and is an

important Zech best practice strategy, commission recommendation is that we focus initially on those parishioner families who we know are “active” and help build up community for them.

Zech recommends that stewardship be an integral part of religious education programs:

- ❖ The commission recommends that we pursue ways to introduce the stewardship concept into our youth religious education programs. We could consider utilizing external resources, similar to Fr. Dan O’Connell’s session with the 9th grade religious education class.
- ❖ Ted Vander Els to set up meeting with Paul Coughlin, Fr. Michael & Deacon John regarding possible RCIA implementation.
- ❖ Commission members are asked to review Zech’s eight best practices strategies (pages 120 - 124), and make an assessment as to where you feel OLF currently stands versus each of these best practices. Bring your assessments to the next meeting, Dec 4, for discussion.

Next Monthly Stewardship Commission Meeting: Thursday, December 4, 2008 at 7:30pm