

Minutes of the December 7, 2006 Stewardship Commission Meeting

Attendees: Julie Gibowicz, Bert Sellier, Mark Nevils, Deacon John Nicholson, Fr. Michael Bova Conti, Bill Starr, Jim McCarthy

Alpha Program Update: Bert Sellier reported that 39 parishioners have registered so far as “guests” for the program, and that an additional 13 have signed on as facilitators/team leaders. Training sessions for the team leaders are scheduled for Dec 11 and 13 evenings. There are approximately 20 parishes in the Boston area implementing Alpha.

Review November 2006 Meeting Minutes:

Parish Website Enhancements: Recommended modifications to the on-line parish registration form and to the ministry interest form have been implemented on the website. An additional recommendation is to reduce the number of buttons on the ministry interest form from 3 to 1. This would simplify the form, plus possibly allow all ministries to fit onto one screen.

The following link has also been added to the Contact Us section:

Web Contact Form:

Please click [HERE](#) to give us your comments or suggestions.

These comments/suggestions will be forwarded to Deacon John, Fr. Mike, and Christine Dunn.

The possibility of a “parish scrapbook” was also discussed. This would consist of a pictorial overview of ministry involvement. It is unclear whether this would be strictly a hardcopy photo album, or whether it could also include an on-line photo album via e.g. Shutterfly.

❖ Need to decide who will drive this project, if it is pursued.

Update on PPC/Strategic Planning:

The December 4 meeting included discussion of possible facilities improvements, e.g. installation of stained glass windows, and a covered “greeting space” area adjacent to the side entrances. It is acknowledged that these types of improvements could not be accommodated via the weekly offertory collections, and would require additional capital appeals. The Stewardship Commission and Parish Finance Council will be involved.

Ministry Directory: Stewardship members have been contacting their assigned liaison ministries to update content and contact info for a 2007 Ministry Directory. Expected publish date is February 2007. Julie Gibowicz will assume liaison responsibility for the ministries previously assigned to Sheila Leonard who recently left the Stewardship Commission after serving on it since its inception. Sheila’s contributions over the years are much appreciated!

- ❖ Deacon John to issue a Word template to be used for each ministry submission (John issued that template Dec 8)
- ❖ Jim McCarthy to develop an accompanying Ministry Discernment Guide brochure, similar to one he distributed as an example from another diocese.

Stewardship Treasure Component:

Since its inception, our Stewardship Commission has focused totally on the Time and Talent components of Stewardship. For 2007 we need to broaden our goals and objectives to focus on the Treasure component.

In a preliminary review of our weekly Offertory collection history, it is acknowledged that it is light, given the town affluence and in comparison to neighboring parishes. In addition to Stabilization Fund strengthening and facilities improvements, the parish also feels the responsibility to pay just wages and benefits to its staff.

The Stewardship Commission is asked to explore how we should approach this challenge. What should our message be? What kinds of actions can we take? What have other parishes and dioceses found successful in increasing the Treasure component?

We as a Stewardship Commission need to compile and absorb as much information as possible. As each of us find information we think is worthy of consideration, we should share it with the commission members.

- ❖ A few of us should read the well-received book “Why Catholics don’t give... and what can be done about it” by Charles Zech, an Economics professor at Villanova.
- ❖ Compile and distribute as much information as you find with a focus on the Treasure component of Stewardship.

The St. Louis diocese appears to have a vast amount of Stewardship information:

<http://www.archstl.org/stewardship/alive/archive/0610/action.html>

Here is guidance the St. Louis diocese provides for Electronic Offertory Giving (EOG)

<http://www.archstl.org/stewardship/alive/index.html>

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