

Stewardship Commission Minutes
February 8 , 2010

Meeting opened at 7:05 p.m. with lengthy discussion of financial stewardship issue due to the invited presence of Tom Sanna, Jake Singer, and Craig Childers from the Parish Council. Parish Council members, as well as Stewardship Commission, have been very concerned about falling revenue and this was the opportunity to get all parties together. Discussion summary:

- Tom reminded us that in the past we asked parish members to make a pledge to sacrificial giving in writing; but we no longer do that. Our current emphasis seems to be more on CSA; but if people don't pledge to CSA, are we losing their parish financial contribution? He suggested that we present Sacrificial Giving once a year and ask parishioners for a written commitment. They can then choose CSA, Sunday envelope, automatic withdrawal, etc. By asking only once, we can minimize expenses in duplicate mailings in both spring and fall and talk less about money. He then presented a pledge/census form that he had developed.
- Tim presented his parish survey form as well. We have a need to update parish records and increase parish income, but how to do this without offending people who are already in dire financial situations.
- Joe does not like surveys as they can be manipulative and not really prove anything except the intent of the survey maker; referred us to website link that will set up your survey and send you a report. He has been working on a letter to send to non-active parish members identified by staff (members who have not participated in any activities for past 2 years) with the theme "we are missing you; incomplete without you and we need you!" Wording is critical as some letters used by other pastors have had very negative results!
- Jake: As a follow-up to Fr. Joes "State of the Parish" could we have Active parish members reach out to families/neighbors not currently active? Another idea was to contact identified inactive members by phone.
- Since 50-60% of parish members participate at least once a month, that means 40-50% do not. That is a lot of people to personally contact, and WHO would do the contacting?
- Tim mentioned that at CSA time last April approximately 1200 cards needed to be mailed out because they were not picked up at church.
- Jim suggested an "ad hoc" committee be set up to work on this; but most folks did not like the idea of another meeting to attend.
- Joe reminded us that the format for stewardship (time, talent & treasure) in September is changing: only 2 weeks of commission displays/recruiting, Sacrificial Giving presentation third weekend, and commitment forms completed in church the final weekend. Responses to current format have been low.
- Ken thanked PC members for coming and noted that we are ALL concerned about this issue and are trying to find the best way to fix it.
- Mary Ann commented that there has been a lot of "money talk" at both Stewardship and Parish Council meetings but little action yet taken. With commission personnel changing in June, there is an urgent need for some sort of action or decision soon.

- All agreed that this is a difficult issue in a difficult economy. There is no easy solution, but we all need to work it on and respect each other's efforts.
- Jake said that has been thinking about attending various Commission meetings. Ken suggested PC appoint one representative to attend Stewardship Commission meetings on a regular basis; and Jake added that it would be helpful for PC members to each attend at least 1 commission meeting per year (in their off-meeting months) to get the flavor of what is happening on the commission level – much more informative than just hearing a report from commissions at parish council meetings. This will most likely be discussed at a future PC meeting.

Following this hour-long discussion the 3 Council members left and the Stewardship meeting proceeded.

- I. Opening Prayer & Reflection read by Dorothy; group sharing followed.
- II. Role Call: Present: Jim Roback, Lou Schimmel, Ken Rooney, Tim Donovan, Dorothy Guzek, Fr. Joe Dailey, Mary Ann Emick
- III. Not present: Bill Moesta, Sam Bartley, Pam Hill

Minutes approved from last meeting

- IV. Financial Stewardship:
 - a. December 09 financial review.
 - b. Fiscal projections & building debt status (Jim Roback) should be 450K; is 315K
 - c. Sunday Shortfall – Father Joe, Tim Donovan, Pam Hill Graph, Bullets. Lower collection in Jan (\$12K) YTD Shortfall \$53.8K
 - d. Parish Council Commentary – Discussion notes above

The Budget process begins in March: Dorothy, Pam, Lou, and Kathy Davis will work on this.

- V. Building Maintenance Stewardship:
 - a. Roof Repair – no new info or changes
 - b. Safety - We must wait for spring to make the repairs on the heaving sidewalk near the Bethany entrance

- VI. Committee Stewardship:
 - a. Green committee - Update (Tim Donovan)
Research done on window film; cost is prohibitive so will not be done. Article was in bulletin on tap/filtered/spring water. Tim will go to Activities Comm. before Parish Picnic – that is the event that uses the most bottled water.
There will be a “special event” sponsored by the Green Comm. during lent – no details tonight

- Paper vs. Styrofoam cups – arguments both ways; Joe says parish has changed at least 3 times in our history; Can we make a “final” decision?
- b. Parish Council Report: Ken Rooney covered PC minutes and has extensive notes for anyone interested
 - c. Voluntary Co-ordination Committee – Update Ken Rooney: no Dec mtg.; next mtg. will be announced and he is planning to attend
 - d. Habitat for Humanity Fundraiser – Each commission has been asked to provide a Gift Basket. Stewardship will provide a “Green” basket; each comm. Member donates \$10 and Tim will purchase items. Since fundraiser is in April, money should be to Tim at/before March mtg.
 - e. Procession Members to be Stewardship Comm. 3 at each Sunday Mass on March 14: 9 a.m. Jim, Lou, Tim
11 a.m. Mary Ann & ?? (she will call absentees to fill in)

VII. Count & Communication Stewardship:

- a. Computer – Issues: none at this time
Sam will be taking over scheduling; Dorothy will contact him
Reminders: Out of parish envelopes go in bag to Christy; watch for written amount on checks!

VIII. New Business - none

IX. Old Business - none

X. Adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Emick

Next meeting: March 8, 2010