

Parish Executive Council Meeting  
January 6, 2010

Purpose of Meeting: Stewardship presentation given by Ellen Weilbacher from the Diocese of Columbus.

In attendance: Fr. Leo Connolly, Beverly Oddi, Greg Schaner, Cathy Maggied, June Bergman, Mike Agriesti, Theresa Noonan, Jim Martin, Allison French, Marge Moretti, Mary Beth Aeh, Barb Johnson, Barb Cunningham, Bob Davis, and Ellen Weilbacher (Diocesan expert on Stewardship Program Development).

Opening: Fr Leo lead us in prayer.

Introduction: Fr. Leo introduced our guest speaker and we all introduced ourselves to her.

Stewardship Development Program Presentation:

- Driving both parish involvement and funding.
- Getting people involved, volunteering to help provide the things that the parish not only needs but what the parish wants.
- Not everyone can give money, but almost everyone can give time. For example, mowing the grounds could be done by a volunteer instead of paying a professional crew.
- Parishioner's taking ownership of the church and volunteering to help maintain or improve the church as a place but also as a community.
- Finding people with talents and/or time that want to volunteer and fitting them into a service that can be done for the church community.
- Once people are involved, then they can maybe expand into other roles. Not always being stuck doing one thing for "life"
- Stewardship is the managing and taking care of something that doesn't belong to us, but rather we are borrowing.
- Stewardship is a journey - not just a program.
- Ellen shared some posters covering different areas about Stewardship that can be displayed seasonally throughout the year. These areas include:
  - Time
  - Talent
  - Treasure
  - Faith
  - Values
  - Family
  - Prayers
- Annual Stewardship Renewal - every year people can either recommit to the same role or to another role or to back out if they feel their lives are too burdened as it is.
- Stewardship is not out to replace people who work in the parish but to support those who are already there.
- Important things for a parish to have:
  - Welcoming Programs - for new and prospective members.
  - Parish Newsletter with at least 4 mailing a year to everyone. (St. Cecilia has a monthly newsletter).
- Potential topics for the pulpit, bulletins, or newsletter:
  - Call to stewardship
  - The Stewardship way of life
  - Celebrating God's gifts
- A parish booklet can be updated that would contain a descriptive list of all the different clubs, ministries and organizations within the parish, so new and existing parishioners can see at a glance all the different areas that they might be interested in. (We have this, but it could be updated)
- People should be able to express interest in any of these areas at any time but especially during the annual time and talent survey drive.
  - After the survey, a lack of follow-up will kill any attempt at stewardship in a parish. If people volunteer via a form but no one responds then it is a waste. It can actually have the opposite effect

- and make those interested people become disinterested.
- A Stewardship “team” - for lack of a better word should be formed to make sure follow up happens. This team should have about 5 or 6 people. They would need to make sure that the Time and Talent Survey forms get routed to the right club, group or ministry and that the follow happens.
- An accurate Census of parishioners is important because the number of parishioners determines the parish target for the Bishop’s Annual Appeal. Ellen’s parish actually went door-to-door to conduct survey.
- Pastoral council should look at the parish Self study and the recommendations that were made and how we have acted upon them and the work we have to do.
- Newsletter could be sponsored w/ an advertisement in the back to help defray the cost of printing and/or postage - being careful that the advertisement is itself appropriate and from an appropriate sponsor.
- Welcoming Ministry - calls, letters, welcome packets. The welcome packet could have a personal letter from each club/group/ministry explaining their function, welcoming them to the parish and inviting their involvement. A personal follow-up call should be made to see if there are any questions. And whenever possible a face-to-face meeting should be made.
- Any welcoming meeting need to be a 2 way conversation. Inviting questions.

Ellen asked for any questions which have been detailed above for the most part.

The meeting was drawn to a close.

Father Leo lead us in a closing prayer.

The next Pastoral Executive Council Meeting will be held February 3<sup>rd</sup>.