

STEWARDSHIP CMT MEETING NOTES 10-28-09

The following members of the Stewardship Committee (SC) met in the parish hall on October 28, 2009: Brusle Sherburne, Bobby McClure, Kathy Adams, Jan Florey, Greg Herbek, Barbara Brienza, & John Cloud.

They were joined by the following guests: Katherine Lenn, Lavonne Maertens, Becky Goff and Kevin Ryan. Fr. Troncale was present for part of the meeting.

The meeting began at 7 pm with prayer which accompanied a small meal of pizza and drinks.

Brief review of the Senior Spirits get together on Monday evening was discussed.

Jan provided members an update to "Time and Talent".

Brusle suggested that the current theme of "Know / Live / Share your Faith" be utilized over the next three years and perhaps focus one aspect of the theme each year.

Next, discussion with the SC and Lavonne Maertens (library representative) centered on the possibility of devoting a small space of the parish library to "apologetic" books. Ms. Maertens noted that space was extremely limited and she did not think they could provide the necessary space for the collection. Several members offered their manpower and suggestions to provide "relief" to the space limitations. Ms. Maertens will review a list of proposed books and hopefully, after further considerations, accommodations can be made.

Becky Goff, the parish's current head of evangelization spoke to the SC soliciting input and help in taking over the programs which she now heads. Becky will be returning to school for further education in the coming months and will not be able to devote her time to several important efforts which she now spearheads. Becky noted that four areas that require attention: 1) Maintenance vs. Mission, and the balance necessary that we devote to not just ourselves, but the outreach of others (i.e. inactive Catholics); 2) Spiritual Renewal, 3) Catholic Returning Home and 4) Welcome Center activities.

Katherine Lenn and the Welcoming Committee will take over responsibilities for the welcome center.

Becky will provide more details / job descriptions for the other activities so that the parish can be better prepared to seek new volunteers for filling the upcoming holes during Becky's absence.

Brusle provided examples of possible SC efforts in providing apologetic materials to the parish at large.

Kevin Ryan spoke to the SC about the need for finding and empowering individuals in the parish to discover their strengths, which in turn, should provide a source of greater parish participation in the stewardship of their time and talents. The SC has previously discussed the possibility of conducting activities such as this and will continue to look for the proper methods, means and timing for such.

Kevin also gave an overview to the SC about the "IRIS" system of communication for the parish. It is a powerful software and means to provide automated (via phone & e-mail), timely messages to the parish at large. Several ideas and utilizations of the system were discussed. IRIS provides an exciting means for better coordination of parish events, news and other information flow.

Next, Brusle noted that Terry Barber had talked to him briefly about any help the SC could possibly provide the Finance Council in encouraging tithing activity and response for the current year. Apparently, tithing card returns are down significantly from previous years. Traditionally, the tithing aspect of stewardship has been the focus and responsibility of Fr. Troncale. The SC recommended that a blanket e-mail and IRIS phone message be sent to all parishioners advising them of the situation and need to inform the parish of their intention for next year, so that the Finance Council can better prepare a budget for 2010.

Brusle noted the recent papal / Holy See documents which are better opening the way for the Episcopal Church to come into full communion with the Church.

There was some discussion on ways that the SC could take advantage of the Christmas and Easter season to facilitate greater participation by "nominal" members of the church, and other fallen away members and non-

Catholics. The SC will likely start with special inserts to the bulletin. They could be apologetic or educational in nature, targeted to specific audiences as noted above.

Reference was made to the new, Portier Institute that is being developed by Tom Riello of Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School and Fr. David Carucci of St. Bede Parish. These individuals are leading the effort to provide adult, Catholic education on a variety of topics in the Montgomery area.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wed. December 2nd, logistics TBD.

Greg closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectively submitted,

Greg Herbek