

# MINUTES SUMMARY

## STEWARDSHIP CORE TEAM MEETING

Saturday, March 15, 2008

**PRESENT:** Gina Adams, Jennifer Clark, Gregory DiRocco, Dennis McGovern, Hannah Meany, Harry Siemonsma, and Theresa Sniadowski. Recording Secretary, Carol Fallon.

**ABSENT:** Fr. Kerry Beaulieu, Dan Brown, Steve Kann, Jennifer Norminton, and Laura Tangredi.

**Meeting Called to Order:** On Saturday, March 15, 2008, on or about 9:15 a.m., the regular meeting of the Stewardship Core Team Committee, was held at OLQA's Parish Center, in the staff lounge, and was called to order by Chairman Gina Adams.

**Opening Prayer:** The opening prayer was given by Harry Siemonsma; Scripture, 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, by Dennis McGovern; Scripture, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading by Hannah Meany; and, the Gospel by Gina Adams.

**Review of Last Meeting's Minutes:** The Minutes of the February 16, 2008 meeting were briefly discussed. There was one correction; that being, Peggy Norminton's name had been left out of the Minutes as one of the names submitted at the February meeting for the purpose of discussing appointments of future members. The Minutes of February 16, 2008, were then voted upon and accepted by the Stewardship Core Team, as corrected. As an aside, it was brought up that if the Minutes are to be put on the OLQA website, that a shorter version of the Minutes of February 16, 2008 be prepared. Everyone agreed, and Carol was asked to prepare a shorter version of the Minutes, submit them to Gina for her review and then Gina will forward them to the other Committee members for their comments.

### **AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

**Stewardship Night at Marywood:** Gina Adams attended Stewardship Night and said that Dan Conway, the presenter, was very interesting. Among various topics discussed, the main theme seemed to be that the future movement of the Church will be to set pastoral priorities in order that each church will have the same goals. Gina picked up some books and will also obtain the tapes.

**April 26<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Quarterly Meeting in January:** Briefly discussed, Gina stated that the Diocesan Quarterly Meeting will be held at Our Lady Queen of Angels, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., in one of the conference rooms. She would like as many people on the Committee to attend as possible. No Minutes will be required – just a summary. Jennifer was asked to make arrangements for the set-up and refreshments. Gina will talk with Debbie to obtain further information as to what will be required of OLQA.

**Stewardship Core Team Role in Outreach Sunday:** Question was asked, how are we going to attempt to reach the parishioners through Outreach Sunday and the Bulletin?

- Jennifer Clark responded that Father Jim, speaker at OLQA's Parish Mission, brought up the Blue Stewardship cards during one of his sessions. She noted that while he was explaining where the cards were located and what kind of information they contained, that various people in the audience began to actually look at the cards (as if they had never seen them before). Obviously, more interest needs to be generated with respect to the cards.
- Jennifer Clark thought it could be possible that the Blue Cards contain too much information. She is considering changing the color of the Blue Cards every so often to a somewhat brighter and more noticeable color, *e.g.*, hot pink or red, and possibly changing the format to induce more interest in the cards. She noted that if the information presented on the Blue Cards is too lengthy, people tend to forget or lose interest in them.
- Several ideas on when stewardship should be presented during the Mass were discussed:
  - At the end of each Mass, somebody from one of the ministries should give a brief talk on why they belong to that ministry, and while at it, mention the Blue Cards (or pink, if the color changed) so that those who are new parishioners will be informed how they can offer their talents.
  - Maybe somebody could speak just before Mass begins, or during the collection of gifts. Dennis McGovern thought this would be a good time, since the collection falls within the scope of time allotted and the people have the time available while the collection is being taken. The Priest could also say a few words on stewardship on Outreach Sunday, during the collection offering.
  - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Irvine has several people speak briefly at the pulpit after Mass regarding upcoming events.
  - Another idea from Jennifer Clark was to have the ministry person lead the stewardship prayer and then give a short talk. Hannah mentioned that doing this before the Mass might be a better time.
  - In any event, everyone agreed that Father Kerry needs to make the decision and should be asked, at what point of the Mass could stewardship be presented? Could it be done during the Homily (*e.g.*, similar to the first Mass celebrated at the new church site whereby ten people spoke on what "being a Catholic meant to them.")?
- Several ideas on having information in the Bulletin were also discussed:
  - Stewardship is the heart of Discipleship and should be mentioned in the Bulletin, giving a description of each accompanied by short inspiring quotes so the parishioners can reflect on the ways they could serve. Those ministry people who might not be willing to get up and talk, might be willing to write a small blurb on their ministry for the Bulletin instead. This will need to be brought up at some point with the other ministries. If it is written for the Bulletin, would it be only once a month (12 times a year) or should stewardship be in the Bulletin every week? Jennifer Clark will send out this idea to the ministry leaders for

their assessment and feedback. On Outreach Sunday, repeat the blurb in the Bulletin and have a speaker at Mass, representing each ministry. That speaker's photo and a short commentary can then appear in the next Bulletin, etc. Jennifer Clark suggested that on Outreach Sunday, to have balloons and food outside the Church. Jennifer said she is planning to give a stewardship talk before the students and tell them how they can give to the community. Jennifer will send an email to Committee and ministry leaders in order to get started with inviting the ministry leaders to respond.

- Greg DiRocco had several good ideas, one being, Dan Conway could be introduced at Mass beforehand, and then speak during the Homily on stewardship. We could begin with putting the definition of stewardship in the Bulletin and/or on the website and then follow it up with the speaker at Mass. Gina Adams read from some of her notes taken from Dan Conway's presentation at the Anaheim meeting. It was suggested a photo with the ministry person be put in the Bulletin. Then a "ripple effect" of assessment, training, workshop, etc. would be established. However, we will have to wait until after the workshop before we can put the Stewardship Checklist on the OLQA website. Or, it can tie-in with the Time and Talent Survey already on the website. The workshop is April 19<sup>th</sup> with another one in June.

- The Committee needs to think about a speaker coming next year for OLQA's Parish Mission. Several were mentioned -- Father J. Glenn Murray (dynamic); Father John Corapi; Father Matthew Kelly (appeals to young and his books, Rhythm of Life, and Perfectly Yourself are very popular). It was brought up that the Parish Council is responsible to invite people to speak at the Parish Mission, but the Committee could approach the Council with suggestions. It would be best if we could get a speaker or priest for all three days, but one day is better than nothing. Jennifer will bring this up with the Council.

**Appreciation Day – How Do We Thank People?:** Gina began by asking, "How are we going to do this?" Appreciation Day, what is it? Appreciation Day was in June; it was twice a year, but now only once a year. In Spring, there is a Volunteer Appreciation Day for the Ministries. Do we do a lunch? Something personal? Jennifer suggested having a more entertaining kind of event or get-together which would include balloons, possibly banners for each ministry (*i.e.*, like we had at the First Mass at the new site), have a smoothie machine to make smoothies, etc. Having a lunch for everyone can be easier said than done. Should we have a holy card or a thank you card to give the volunteers? Should there be total Stewardship Committee participation so that other parishioners who are not involved see us there? We need to keep in mind the importance of doing something for them and making it special – as if it were a ceremony. Should we have handouts? Jennifer Clark to get back to the Committee with the date when Appreciation Day will be held.

**Bulletin – Stewardship Corner:** Ask Gina Sammis how big a space in the Bulletin we can have and when do we have to get the information to her (1/2 of a column?). Gina Adams will submit four items to Gina Sammis ahead of time. We should have a listing of all the ministries indicating those persons from each who would be willing to make a short presentation. Jennifer Clark could be the first ministry presenter. It was suggested, however, we start with the Bulletin first. Jennifer Clark volunteered to be responsible for taking the photos for the Bulletin and website.

**General Discussion regarding Submission of Committee Names:**

Additional names were suggested to the Committee for new member consideration. Greg suggested Jay Donahue; Dennis suggested Toshi Yakamoto, Marshall Bell, and Erin Meyer (who had already been suggested).

**PARISH COORDINATOR'S UPDATE:** Parish Coordinator already expressed update during the meeting.

**FAITH JOURNEY SHARING BY JENNIFER NORMINTON:** Due to a last-minute commitment, Jennifer Norminton was unable to attend the meeting. Her Faith Journey Sharing will be postponed to a later date.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Gina again requested that Committee members submit their sayings and quotes and suggested that an easy way to find them is by going on the internet and Google key words, *i.e.*, "commitment." The closing prayer was offered by Theresa Sniadowski. There being no further business before the Stewardship Core Team members, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.

**Next Meeting:** The next regular meeting will be combined with the Diocesan Meeting at OLQA to be held on April 26, 2008, beginning at 9:00 a.m.