

# St. Odilia Council Meeting Minutes

<b>Council: STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL</b>			
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<b>Meeting Date:</b> 2/17/09		<b>Time:</b> 6:50 PM
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Meeting Participants:	Present	Participants:	Present	Participants:	Present	Guests:
David Vanneste		Bill Rinehart	X	Fr. Rask	X	
Marv Tenhoff		Tom Kramer	X	Irma Ruano	X	
Lana Mahoney		Pat Keyes		Mike Bronk	X	
Carolyn Breitbach	X	John Tomczyk	X			

Agenda/Minutes	Owner
The meeting opened with a prayer.	
The Minutes of the January 20, 2009 Stewardship Council meeting were approved with one correction to the attendee list.	
Tom gave a review of the last PLC Meeting. For more details refer to the Minutes of the PLC meeting posted on the website.	
Carolyn distributed Stewardship articles she submitted for the upcoming Newsletter. She also passed out copies of a pamphlet explaining Grace Days. This is an initiative by Grace Church Roseville to facilitate stewardship activities. She indicated this idea might be something the Parish could pursue – she will route it to Social Justice and Pastoral MACs.	Carolyn
The preliminary statistics on the 2009 pledge drive were discussed. John indicated he has spoken with Roger Toogood who had some questions about the results. The group discussed what actions might be taken to obtain information from past “pledgers” who have changed their pattern. It was agreed that interpreting the data is difficult without the more detailed breakdown of the results. Further work & decisions will take place after additional data is obtained. In the meantime work can begin on a possible questionnaire/survey should the Council decide on that method for obtaining more information. Carolyn agreed to seek further information from Colleen.	John, Carolyn
The Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Stewardship Council held February 3, 2009 were reviewed and approved with a minor edit. John reported that Sonia Erickson has agreed to design the new Ministry Booklet. The group discussed the need to identify a speaker for the training session to be put on later this year. Related details need to be decided but such decisions are more difficult until the speaker and date are determined. John agreed to draft something that could be sent to potential speakers to solicit their interest and availability. The Group agreed another special meeting to work on the education/training initiative was necessary. A special meeting will be convened at 6:00pm on March 3, 2009. Carolyn will send out invitations.	John, Carolyn
John reviewed with the group the ideas and information he obtained by attending the International Stewardship Conference last fall. His notes and handouts will be attached to these Minutes when they are issued in final form. His PDF file will be sent separately.	Michael
Meeting adjourned at 9:15.	

	Follow up Item	Due Date	Owner
1	Ministry Booklet Design		John
2	Finalize Ministry Booklet & mail		Carolyn, Pat, Lana
3	Write up education initiative		Michael
4	Contact possible speakers		Carolyn, David

**Other team notes:**

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**NEXT MEETINGS: Regular meeting on March 17, 2009 rescheduled for 3/24.**

## **Attachment**

Introduction to Christian Stewardship  
October 13-14, 20008

## **Opening Plenary Session**

**Reverend Frank DeSiano, CSP**

Stewardship = Craft of Prayer

Theme: Evangelization and Stewardship in the Spirit of St. Paul

- Not History
- St. Paul teaches us Humility
  - o Pride and Self Centeredness are opposite of humility
- Did will of god
- Paul's letters are the oldest
- Paul's letters sum up the message of Stewardship

## Discipleship

- Grounded in the Word of God
  - o Relationship, Conversion, Perseverance
- Expressed in Worship and Prayer
- Lived in Community
  - o Our Faith is lived with others
- Expressed in Service
  - o Gives himself in love in Service

## The Mass

#1 the Creed – I believe I accept

#2 offertory – I give myself to God in Response to the Word

#3 The Great Amen – We make God the center of our lives, we pledge all glory and praise

#4 Communion – I become Christ's Body, I live Christ's Life

#5 Dismissal – I will live my Faith

## Directions:

- Use Conversion and Commitment language more regularly
- Celebrate Eucharist with Intentionality
- Have Rest of Life flow from Eucharist
- Make clear we are asking for much more than money
  - “I don't want your money, unless I have your heart”
- Parish tithe themselves, give 10% of budget to reach beyond themselves

See Stewardship Response p34-35

## **The Spirituality of Christian Stewardship Daniel J. Mahan**

Stewardship – way of life rooted in Jesus, Practical Spirituality that helps us grow in holiness (the Goal to be a Holy Person)

## Four Characteristics of Stewardship

(1) Grateful – thankful for opportunities, the faith, who is brought into their life

(2) Responsible – We will take care of Blessings Given

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- (3) Generous – Sharing our Gifts loosely, do some good
- (4) making a return with increase

## Things happen with Stewardship

- People are more gratified
- More People involved and Committed to the life of the Parish (gives life blood for the sense of the church)
- Greater Sense of Mission, Serving the lord out in the world
  - o Where is the lay catholic serving – Primary place is out in the world
    - Family, Work, Marketplace, Wherever we have influence, Called to bring lord Jesus and influence

The Gift of Time: Time is much more valuable than money; Time once spent can never be recovered

Example: Jar – Golf Balls (really important), Pebbles (Important but not Really Important), Sand (the small stuff) Questions: what goes into your Jar.

The Gift of Talent: Passion – what are we really passionate about, no one else is like you, all given different talents

## The gift of Treasure:

- More than half of the parables talk about money. Jesus is always talking about money, He knows it's important
- In Giving we Receive, Presentation of the Bread and Wine (they represent the church), the offering we present something of our own, The gifts that are ordinary, become divine, Jesus takes what we have to give, he changes and gives himself in holy communion
- Christ has no body here on earth but ours, We are stewards, We strive each and every day to live out our faith
- Electronic Giving: Re-enforce offering of the gift, Put in box reusable ticket that says I have given electronically
- Greater sense of mission – send them out into the world, start mission with Eucharist

Advice on “Before we Do” – Rest in the Lord “ Not just do more”

- (1) Pay attention on the radio of what is happening outside of the parish “ praise them”
- (2) Get involved with workers of the poor through the parish, people see the connection with the parish
- (3) Parish that regard themselves as a Stewardship Parish – have Eucharist Churches

## **The Foundations of Sacred Stewardship**

**Michael Murphy**

Scripture reflections on Stewardship using themes: Covenant, Conversion, And Communion (see attached 2 pages)

## Basic Message:

- God owns everything
- God gives gifts (health, prayer, family, ability to earn a living, material resources)
- We are to use our gift wisely
- We are give of our gifts, share them
- Return to the lord with increase

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Covenant: I will be your god, you will be my people; I will love my lord with all my might, heart, soul Can change lord to wife, children friend

Conversion: Luke: unless you act like children and turn their lives to God

Communion: St. Paul letter to the Corinthians

When one rejoices, all rejoice. Our job is to discern the movement of the spirit. We all have unique gifts, challenge is bringing those gifts together in union to serve God. God says bring your meager gifts.

Above is encapsulated in one passage: Galatians 6. V 2. If you carry each others burden and rejoice when they rejoice.

Use of liturgy and sacred scripture is the most important way to help people understand Stewardship, it gives a better understanding of having liturgy in their lives.

## **What Do I Own and What Owns Me? A Disciples Response Daniel Conway**

Stewardship message is counter cultural:

Obstacles: Many isms; materialism

- Americans are obsessed with Material Things
- World Measures success and happiness on how much we possess

God alone is owner of all – in reality we are stewards of what belongs to god

God will take care of us, God gives to us so we can give to others

- Seek first the Kingdom of God, and all the rest will be given to you.

Grateful – Do we thank God

Accountability – Do we admit mistakes, Do we do Reconciliation

Share Generously – Are we more Generous, Share our gifts and talent, Caring and Generous

Return to the Lord with Increase – Are we growing in holiness, Are we giving our left over's or sharing our very best

## **Characteristics of A Stewardship parish**

**Reverend Jim Lee**

(see 4-page attachment)

## **Introducing the Parish to Stewardship – The Role of the pastor and the Pastoral Team**

**Reverend Robert F. Marneau and Amberly Boerschinger**

Psalm 116:12 ; “How shall I make a return to the lord for all the good he has done for me?”

Givers, Give, Giving:

Receive God's gift gratefully

Nurture Gods Gifts Responsibly – Every gift is a responsibility

Share Gods Gifts Charitably

Return Gods Gifts Abundantly – a Just return to the Lord

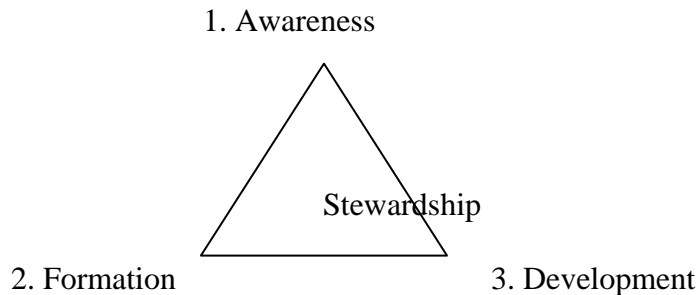
Receive a gift → We share it → give it back

How sharper a serpent's tooth, than to have an ungrateful child – King Lear

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Pastoral teams to bring stewardship to members, Stewardship is not a department, it's a philosophy that permeates all church life. The holy spirit has a mission for each of our churches.

Instead of Time, Talent, and Treasure → Prayer, Service, Sharing



Stewardship is a way of life: Continually Building

How am I a Steward? Name and Develop individual Gifts

How can I grow in Stewardship? Develop a deeper theology and philosophy of Stewardship as a way of life

Non Spiritual people – inattention to love and truth (attention deficit disorder)

## 3. Development

### Financial

- Assures a cash flow
- Teaches Members to trust God's generosity and plan for our finances and our lives

### Strategic

- Based on God's mission for our church
- Who, How

## Job Descriptions:

Pastor – Witness, Encourager, Teacher

### Pastoral Team

- Firm Foundation in what stewardship is to a good stewardship leader
- Build awareness
  - Stewardship Formation with Pastoral Teams
  - New Parishioner Registration – Teach Stewardship
  - Committee formation
  - Team participation in annual commitment and follow-up with parishioners

## Formation

- Gifts based ministry
- Know their gifts and use the vocabulary we use in the work environment
- Recognize potential members
- Parishioners gifts must be affirmed by pastoral teams
- Use a gift or talent inventory

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- Utilize a visual for each member
- Utilize strength or passion “key”
- Coach members in their continued growth

## Pastoral Teams

- Shared Vision
- Need Communication (Pastoral Team knows the Parish)
- Teamwork is key to a successful future, no matter the size of the team

## Practical Ideas

- Develop a strong gifts based financial team
- Make sure all are aware of the pastoral strategic plan
- Annual reviews of the pastoral strategic plan
- Conduct annual team planning

Accept help gratefully! Offer help graciously! Affirm one another!

## **The Vital Role of the Stewardship Committee**

**Jim Kelley**

See handout

## **Inviting Parishioners to Embrace Stewardship: The Who, What, When, Where and How Lois Lacey, St. Mary Magdalene**

Stewardship is everything after we say we believe

## The Testimony of Lay Witnesses – Formation and Preparation

Mary Kelly, Archdiocese of Toronto