

## Stewardship Minutes

Sept. 1, 2020

4 p.m. via Zoom

**Call to order:** 4:02 p.m. by John Stafford

**In attendance:** Bob Gelina, John Stafford, Fr. Kyle Digmann, K'Lynn Lynn, Steve Mahoney, Bobby LeBlanc

### Business:

#### Our Pastor's Vision for Stewardship at STA – Fr. Kyle

##### In the short term:

- Archdiocese has been running webinars about restoring giving and budget.
- People need personal connection with the church. They are isolated. Ideas have been floated, but no real traction to date.
- Parish neighborhood project that was initiated by Mary Jo Pfeiffer is one example
- As a parish family, we need to find out how are people doing, but we need to communicate in an authentic way. Intentional community outreach to people.
  - **What are their needs and what are their wants?**
- We have a lot of giving people, but when we can reach out and take care of others, it makes them want to give back.
- We are a parish family. When someone is in need, we should reach out to them. This is a symbiotic relationship that engenders community strength. The parish should take care of our members. And the members will be more committed to taking care of the parish
- Asking for money is inauthentic. On Stewardship Sunday, we probably should not focus on the annual “money talk”.
- Focus on the current situations and needs, find a way to connect, reenergize the parish community to participate – even if it's in new and different ways.

##### Long Term:

- Parish is a family. How do we use time and talent to serve the parish family? Identifying needs and wants. What do they need to know now and in the long term? Spiritual and practical.
- Income has been flat over the years. How do we get income to go up in relation to expenses? Continual education and outreach.
- Finance council and Fr. Kyle have the following ideas for giving and stewardship
  - How do we find and follow best practices on growing giving?
    - Books, case studies, webinars, conferences?
- Would like Stewardship to create a 3-year plan and implement
  - Track performance and feedback
- Time and Talent is kind of taken care of through annual registration. Discernment of gifts and talents is not supported and reinforced or mentored.

#### Do we need a Stewardship Committee at STA?

- Consensus of the discussion is Yes.
- Bob G asked what methods have been attempted to determine wants and needs.
  - i. Fr. Kyle referred to the neighborhood project. John S will contact Tom Brumm to obtain status of the project and report back.

- Bob G asked if we are focusing on Students or Residents or both. Consensus was both.
- Fr. Kyle cautioned that we need to be aware of what we can do. Also does not feel mass-mailings are the way to proceed. Contacts should be person-to-person to make authentic and personal connections. This can create an organic growth as people become more engaged and invite others.
- One idea discussed is to leverage the existing small group infrastructure that already has groups which might provide fertile ground for asking among themselves what members or acquaintances need from the church.

### **Stewardship Sunday – When is it? What should we do?**

- Date is set based on liturgical selections. We should target October
- Proposed Actions
  - i. Different approach to annual stewardship brochure. Focus on what has been happening at STA during the COVID times. Report on the good news and tell good stories of what has been going on despite the pandemic.
  - ii. Messages from the Pastor.
    1. Fr. Kyle had already planned to send a letter in September about happenings at STA, followed by a thank you letter to those who have continued financial support throughout the pandemic. These communications can set the stage for the Stewardship messaging in October.
    2. Traditional letter about our parish family, belonging, ownership and responsibility, and prayerful consideration of financial support.
    3. Video message from the Pastor about stewardship and what we can do for each other. Also what is happening at STA and how each parishioner can contribute to the parish family.
    4. Bulletin/Email newsletter Feature. Personal stories in the bulletin of why people give. Or What does STA do to inspire your giving?

**Nametag Sundays** – Probably not until spring.

### **Expanding our committee membership**

- John will invite Holly and Mary Budd to rejoin
- Members are asked to identify people who could join

### **Housekeeping**

- Meeting time and date 6:30 p.m. on third Tuesdays. On Zoom for now.
- Representative to pastoral council – K'Lynn
- Secretary to take and prepare meeting minutes – John would love for somebody to do this so he can focus on running the meetings.

Adjourned 5 p.m. by John Stafford