

Stewardship Committee Meeting
December 5, 2023
Egg Harbor Site

Our Mission: *"Stella Maris Catholic Parish prayerfully unites people in the love of Jesus guided by our patron, Mary."*

Our Vision: *We invite all to journey as disciples. By sharing the Gospel, responding to Jesus' love and the gifts God has given us, we welcome all to grow in faith and in our parish life.*

Attendees: Bernie Freeman, Jody Weitman, Mark Loper, Deacon Tony Abts, Laura Paider, Tom Polacek, Elizabeth "Little Bit" LeClair, Jim Stangle

Absent: Michael Smith

Call to Order: Tom opened the meeting at 4:02pm

Opening Prayer: Bernie

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the August 8, 2023 meeting were previously approved via email.

Introductions: Tom began the meeting by introducing our newest committee member, Jim Stangle.

2023 Service and Sharing Drive (SSD)

Critique and Resultant Action Items:

- A new committee was formed because of a suggestion on the brochure: the Safety Committee.
- Additional people volunteered. (see below for details)
- Brochure was well received. The QR codes will need to be changed for next year's brochure. We will need to bring Kevin into the process earlier.
- Tom will send Bernie the suggested changes to the brochure. Jody will assist Bernie in implementing the changes.
- New volunteers' information was sent to the appropriate ministry leaders who, in turn, contacted the new volunteers for their ministry.
- Deacon suggested having an additional person (a 4th person) to input data from the cards/brochures into the spreadsheet for the 2024 S & S Drive.
- The details of the 2024 Service and Sharing Drive will be worked out at a special meeting on April 2, 2024.

Service and Sharing Drive Response Details:

- We currently have 377 active volunteers.
- 145 brochures were returned, which is less than previous years. It was suggested that some people only returned the stewardship cards to indicate their financial pledge and not to volunteer. However, separating the financial portion from the volunteer portion did not seem to have a negative impact on donations.
- Twenty-two new households filled out brochures.

Additional Discussion and Action Items:

- It was decided that November is a good time to distribute the financial commitment part.
- Tom, Jim and Laura will create a narrative budget with year-end numbers.

Volunteer Appreciation Celebration**Critique and Resultant Action Items:**

- The event was well attended. Approximately 85 people attended.
- The goal is to keep the Annual Meeting to 20 minutes.
- Next year the Stewardship Committee will invite the chairs of the Finance and Pastoral Councils to co-plan and co-host the event.
- A role of “desserts point-person” would be beneficial.
- Details of the 2024 Volunteer Appreciation Celebration will be planned at a Special Meeting August 13.

Endowment Update: The group will meet after the holidays to discuss people to contact regarding the Endowment. Bernie and Tom will assemble a group to help with the discussion.

2024 Meeting Dates:

- **April 2** 4:00pm *SSD Planning Meeting*
- **April 16** 4:00pm *Regular Meeting*
- **May 14** 4:00pm *Regular Meeting*
- **August 13** 9:00am *Volunteer Appreciation Celebration Planning Meeting*
- **August 13** 10:00am *Regular Meeting*
- **October 8** 4:00pm *Regular Meeting*
- **December 10** 4:00pm *Regular Meeting*

Closing Prayer: Tom

Meeting adjourned: 5:35pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jody Weitman