

Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes for 08/15/2016

In attendance: Mark Kuntsman (guest), Elizabeth LeClair, Becky Nash, Tom Polacek,
Jim Stollenwerk

Meeting opened with prayer led by Becky.

Tom asked for results from the stewardship drive and any suggestions for next year. The following drive items were shared and discussed:

- 291 out of 678 or 42.9% of households have responded (up from 37.8% in 2015).
- 262 parishioner service response inventoried; 185 re-committing to ministry; 64 new ministry commitments (same as 2015).
- Net 10 new households with at least one volunteer; improvement from 40% to 41.4% of all Stella Maris households that have at least one volunteer.
- Pure number of households in the parish dropped during the campaign from 678 to 664 primarily due to notification of moving out of the area.
- Service commitments holding pretty well, but financial giving seems to be ebbing again similar to this time two years ago.
- It was suggested that when it is time to do follow-up calls that index cards be delivered to the sites rather than having volunteers pick them up at the EH office.
- Short follow-up timeframe was good; ended up with 15 callers, but could use 5 more.
- Helpful when callers date, initial, and leave comments for follow-up.
- Still many people said they did not get the mailing. Discussed ideas of having parishioners pick mailing up at church and mail those that don't get picked up or having parishioners fill out forms at church during Mass.
- Think we should find new witness speakers for next year to change it up.

Tom then kicked off a discussion of the plans for the September 22 Volunteer Appreciation event. He will approach all the commission chairs again to help and serve with stewardship committee but will do this through e-mail versus another meeting. Venue and plan will be the same as last year except wanted to discuss the promotional effort to get a larger response than last year (about 50).

Ideas discussed for promotion:

- Send out a 1st class postcard to all parishioners to save the date. RSVP request may get more people to commit, but downside would have to track in office.
- Postcard should cover who, when, where, and why with invite possibly to say "we would like to serve you."
- Utilize announcements, bulletin articles, and posters at church entrances.
- Ask Michelle Piatek to broadcast e-mail invite through ministry program to those volunteers.

The next topic discussed was the annual report. Tom presented a proposed outline of the content for the annual report. This content was discussed and most of Tom's proposal was

agreed upon except that: 1) the cover letter and executive summary would be combined, 2) names would not be listed for the sacraments, and 3) there would be no pictures. Once Tom makes these modifications, he will send the outline to Father and request each of the commissions and councils to submit their report (successes for the year and goals for next year). Tom will collect the remaining information needed.

The final topic on the agenda was a preliminary discussion of establishing a Parish Foundation. Everyone agreed this was a good idea and felt parishioners would give to this foundation if it was secure and left a legacy into the future. The Diocesan Catholic Foundation may be a good place to establish a Stella Maris foundation or multiple endowment funds as the diocese has mechanisms to set these up and currently does this for many of the 157 parishes in the diocese as well as other organizations or individual donors. Mark will investigate what is available from the diocese. Tom will follow-up with a parishioner family member who has offered his assistance in this process and possible ideas for fundraising for it.

Tom asked that our next meeting date in October be changed to another week. The next meeting will now be on **Monday, October 3** in Sister Bay.

Closing prayer led by Tom.

Minutes prepared by Becky.

Next Meeting is scheduled for **Monday, October 3, 2016 in Sister Bay at 6:00 p.m.** The group normally meets bi-monthly on the 3rd Mondays in SB at 6:00 p.m. Meeting dates for 2016: 2/15, 4/18, 6/06, 8/15, 10/03 (modified), 12/19.