

**Stewardship Committee Meeting**  
**August 8, 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, Michael Smith, Elizabeth "Little Bit" LeClair,

**Absent:** Jim Stangle

**Call to Order:** Tom opened the meeting at 9:31am

**Opening Prayer:** Jody

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the May 23rd meeting were previously approved by consent via email.

**Introductions:** Tom began the meeting by introducing our newest committee member, Elizabeth "Little Bit" LeClair. Our other new member, Jim Stangle, was unable to attend due to a prior commitment.

**2023 Service and Sharing Drive (SSD)**

**Brochures:** As the majority of the brochures have been taken, a reprinting is in order. The new run will have updated QR codes and a date signifying the update. Deacon will check with Kevin regarding creating QR codes to match the updated web pages to which they link. After Kevin indicates the QR codes have been updated and linked, Bernie will contact Sharon Anderson (designer) to make edits, follow up with Laura Blahnik (Innovative Printing) to have cards printed, and arrange with the Parish office to have mailing labels and stamps ready for mailing the cards by the week of August 21.

It was decided to leave the brochure collection boxes at the churches year round.

**Service and Sharing Drive Response Details:** Deacon, Laura, and Tom inputted information from the returned brochures into a spreadsheet and sorted into ministries. A list of people, and their contact information, wanting to be a part of each ministry will be forwarded to the lead person for that ministry. An initial list of returns is expected to be run in August, with follow up lists run every two months. In addition to the list of volunteers, the total number of returns (with a breakdown of electronic vs hard copy) will be run during these times as well.

A related discussion was held regarding the importance of contacting new parishioners in a timely manner. The committee had questions regarding the overall process and timeline for contacting new members. Tom volunteered to contact Jan Liss or Dixie Van

Vorous to get more information about the information that is part of the initial “Welcome to the Parish” orientation.

**Volunteer Appreciation Open House:**

**Specifics:** Thursday, September 14, 5:30-8:00. Annual meeting at 6:00. Food will be served at 6:30. Additional details can be found on the checklist.

**Musicians:** Deacon Tony confirmed that he and his yet-to-be-named band of musicians will be able and willing to provide the entertainment for the event. Music will begin at 5:30.

**Hosts:** This event is hosted by the Stewardship Committee, the Pastoral Council, the Finance Council and the 4 Commission leaders. Tom will contact these groups and enlist their support.

**Special Attendees:** Deacon will be responsible for inviting our helper priests and guest musicians.

**Postcard Invitations:** The invitations will be the same size as last year, with an edit of changing the name of the event to “Volunteer Appreciation **Celebration**.”

**Advertisement and Communication:** Bernie will create announcements for the event for inclusion in the September 2-3 and September 9-10 bulletins. Last year’s Annual Meeting minutes will be included in the September 2-3 bulletin as well.

Tom will create a two-page document highlighting the parish’s events over the past year to be available at the celebration.

**Stewardship Annual Report:** The Stewardship Committee’s work is right on target to align with the Parish’s Mission Plan to increase the number of volunteers.

**Endowment Update:** Tom filled the committee in on the history of the endowment fund and its relation to the one by One campaign. The Endowment Advisory Committee will be looking for those who did not contribute to the one by One campaign, but may be interested in donating to the endowment fund. The Advisory Committee hopes to meet at the end of August. Bernie will write up a “no donation is too small” message for inclusion in the rotation of endowment fund messages for the bulletins.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, December 5, 4:00pm  
Parish Office - Egg Harbor

**Closing Prayer:** Bernie

**Meeting adjourned:** 11:15am

Respectfully submitted,

Jody Weitman

