

St. Mary's Stewardship Commission Meeting Agenda
Parish Hall
February 16, 2009
5:15-6:15 PM

Attendees: John Prohaska, Tommy Rose, Rick Silva, Mike Fincher, Don Bailie, Fran Bailie, Rhee Fincher, Fr. Frank, Fr. Jerry

Opening prayer

Fr. Jerry – Comments and guidance: Fr. Jerry thanked the members for their work and emphasized that stewardship is a journey and that the tenets of stewardship should be presented repeatedly in various venues. He expressed concern that the number of parishioners at SMOTH has increased over the last 5 years, but the number participating in stewardship has remained flat (~1/3 participate in stewardship, 1/3 are “active” members but do not participate in stewardship commitments, and 1/3 are inactive).

He strongly encouraged SMOTH representation at the regional stewardship conference. At the moment, he, Lisa Murray, and Mary Davis are attending. No member of the Stewardship Commission is available.

2009 renewal follow-up report was given by Tommy Rose (CSC). See written report for details. Tommy requested suggestions for improving materials/process for 2010

- Consider smaller ministry brochure to be sent with renewal packet; then send complete brochure at another time
- Consider a more “people-focused” brochure, showing parishioners in “action” related to the parish and stewardship activities, rather than so much emphasis on Mass photos.
- Fr. Jerry asked for reaction to 2 stewardship talks
 - Positively received
 - For next year, consider a “single”, older, and younger presentations. Fr. Jerry suggested Margaret Dunstan as a speaker
- Consider more “stories” about the stewardship in which the parish is engaged, e.g., support of St. Bernadette, Milledgeville

Website enhancement – Follow-up reports

- Follow-up on interest of those who volunteered to help with computers during renewal: Robert and Mary Beth Mueller will help with Website development. We need a group to develop and maintain a quality Website. Lisa Cundey may be interested and Fr. Jerry will check with her.
- John Prohaska suggested gearing site more toward a sense of community – parish community and Augusta community – with links to restaurants, stores, gyms, etc.
- Consider podcast of homilies
- Suggest a bulletin announcement that we are beginning to update Website – asking anyone who might be interested to contact the parish office
- Tommy suggested the following “exemplar” websites”
 - www.saintben.com
 - www.immaculate.net
 - www.holyfamilycc.org (less visual pizzazz)
- Ministry marketing
 - Two-minute blurbs

Stewardship Commission formation

- Recommended beginning each SC meeting with discussion of a chapter from *Best Practices in Parish Stewardship*, by Charles Zech. Rhee will scan a representative chapter and distribute before the next meeting. Please read it and come prepared to discuss as the ideas pertain to SMOTH.

Upcoming SC meetings: 3/23, 5/25

Respectfully submitted,

Rhee Fincher