

Stewardship Committee Meeting

February 13, 2025 12:00 – Parish Office Conference Room

Purpose: “To help foster and develop in our parishioners a sense of belonging, commitment, and involvement in our Christian community resulting in stewardship as a way of life”

Present: Ron Boyden, Tammy Huss, Dan Kirscht, Aaron Korynta, Jerry Kostreba, Jake Mach, Randy Meyer & Todd Wentworth

Absent: Josh Waltzing (Pastoral Council Liaison), Fr. Matthew Kuhn (on sabbatical)

Opening Prayer – Meeting began with a large group prayer, with others not on the Stewardship Committee but who were in the room at meeting start time. These individuals left after prayer.

Updates:

January Minutes - Todd made on slight change regarding January’s minutes.

Financial Peace University – off and running. We have 4 family units this year. A number of younger individuals who have been very active in the discussions and asking questions. Good energy. We have completed 3 of 9 classes so far and are on-track to finish at the end of March.

The **Fr. McGread Conference** will be March 19th and 20th this year. Father Matthew is encouraging staff and committee leaders to attend. Dan has committed to going this year. Todd mentioned it may become a requirement for all St. Mary’s staff to attend this conference within 2-3 years of being hired. He is actively reaching out get a few more attendees. There is a group from Wadena going this year, carpooling with them may be an option.

We also discussed the possibility of bringing the Fr. McGread Conference / Catholic Stewardship Consultants here for our diocese. Many people find it challenging to commit a full 3 days to travel and attend the conference and awareness of the conference overall is uncertain. If we coordinate with other ACCs in our diocese, there is optimism we could get ~200 people to attend and we could host it at St. Mary’s. The committee was favorable to this idea and agreed it should be discussed further as a possible future event.

Ministry Moments – Very favorable feedback on the Youth Group Ministry Moment. They did a great job. Jane Richmond and Ron have been discussing the San Juan Lucas Ministry Moment idea and common ground was found on messaging and approach. It is expected this Ministry Moment will occur after lent, maybe late April. There are no other potential Ministry Moments in queue at this time.

Diocesan Update / Pastoral Council – Many parishes are faces financial headwinds and parishioner engagement remains a challenge (often many things tend to fall on the same group of volunteers). Additionally, All Things New, as discussed in last month’s meeting, is a bit of a wild card right now. There is a general idea of where it will be going, but much of the specifics are yet to be released. That should happen soon and in the diocese the ACCs will be very busy working on this plan for approval by the bishop. 2025 will be a year where ACCs will be forced to have very specific plans to address the bishop’s initiatives, if they haven’t done so already. Todd is working on building an All Things New Committee – he has some names from Father Matthew.

Josh was not present to provide a Pastoral Council Update. Jake commented that while Father is away from the Parish Council, there have been no major matters. They have been focused primarily on discussing how they can be more effective and useful to Father as a Parish Council (not the group in particular, but the Council overall – process, approach, role). Jake also noted elections are coming up.

Legacy Dinner – It will be happening this year. As noted in last month's meeting, Todd is working on building a team to support the event. Planning will likely start in April.

The rest of the meeting revisited the topic "What Else Can We Do" and discussing Stewardship Committee's role. We discussed what other words might exist for Stewardship or how would we describe it? Ownership? Intentional and joyful? We ultimately settled on the traditional Three T's - Time, Talent, and Treasure are probably still the best way to promote.

Discussion about what Father Matthew likes to say "You know you are part of the family when you are asked to pitch in". We need to be and then remain intentional about how we are inviting new, inactive, or at times active parishioners – into our family.

The rest of the discussion circled around particular tendencies of parishioners – some are more traditional, some are not. It seems younger families are increasingly trending towards the more traditional side of things. Every parishioner has a draw, or an interest, something that uniquely will pull them to Christ and His Church. Again, the personal ask was emphasized.

Closing Prayer by the entire Committee around 1:30

FUTURE MEETINGS

- 2nd Thursday of every month – 12:00.
- March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12