

# **ST. JOHN VANNEY STEWARDSHIP MEETING MINUTES**

## **Minutes of the March 31, 2009 Meeting**

**In Attendance:** Mike Cekanor, Julie Dreyer, Jim Hessling, Barb Hetzel, Nancy Nelson, Brad Niswonger, Bob Ranus and Kathy Uy.

The meeting began with a prayer.

**Current Weekly Contributions** – Jim Hessling reported that Offerings have continued to decline. To date, they are 5.5% below budget and 5.0% less than the prior year. If this trend continues for the balance of the Fiscal Year, the budget deficit could be in the range of \$150,000 to \$175,000. The Committee believes that it is important that Father Ken includes a note with the Quarterly Statements, asking parishioners to try and meet their pledges/commitments. We will continue to monitor the current trend and determine if any other actions are merited.

**Stewardship Renewal** – Bob Ranus distributed a list of potential themes for this year's Stewardship Campaign. This led to stimulated discussion of the message we want to promote with our theme. Brad Niswonger suggested that the theme should make note of the challenges confronting our parishioners in these difficult times. Nancy Nelson agreed, but also believes that we still need to emphasize the spiritual side. Referring back to the list and with these recommendations in mind we agreed on the following theme-----

**We Are Tested  
We Are Listening  
We Have Faith**

The Committee concluded that the theme recognizes that our parishioners may be experiencing difficulties and to get help, parishioners should look to God.

Our second task was to develop a work plan for the Campaign. With the Faith In Our Future Campaign occurring at the same time as the Stewardship Campaign, it is essential that we develop a detailed work plan with the objective being to minimize conflicts and not confuse our parishioners. A tentative work plan was distributed and comments solicited. Several suggestions regarding personal and dates were offered. A final schedule/work plan will be distributed at the May meeting.

**Estimated Collections For 2009/2010 Budget** – At our last meeting we recommended that the budgeted number for Fiscal 2009/2010 should be \$2,150,000. Jim Hessling asked the Committee if they would agree to revise that number to \$2,190,000 with the entire increase established as a contingency. Everyone agreed. It is hoped that

the new amount will present a more optimistic forecast and inspire parishioners to increase their contributions.

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE GUIDELINES** - Mike Cekanor asked everyone to submit his or her suggested changes by April 15<sup>th</sup>. He will incorporate the changes in the original draft and email the revised guidelines to us. He plans to present this draft at the May Parish Council Meeting.

**PLANNED GIVING** - Bob Ranus suggested that the Planned Giving team consider canceling the Father Lipscomb Society dinner. With the current budget deficit, it might send the wrong message to parishioners. Everyone agreed. In lieu of a dinner, the team will be sending a thank you letter and a small token of appreciation such as a book, a candle, a religious relic, etc.

**Other Matters** - Bob Ranus informed the Committee that he was meeting with Father Ken later in the week and would review our proposed theme and timetable with him.