

**ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR**

**OMAHA, NEBRASKA**

**PASTORAL COUNCIL**

**Meeting Minutes from Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**Attendees:** Father Tiegs, Marvin Winkeler, Stacy Watson, Joan McDonough, Annette Wallace, Matt Dickey, Sister Clarice, and Dean Strehle

**Excused:** Sherry Solsky, Pete Froelicher, Andrew White, and Tom Jorgensen

Opening prayer by Annette Wallace

**Meeting minutes approved for the Sept. meeting**

**Item 1:** Sister Clarice presented on the outreach programs at St. Stephens

1. Stephen Ministry began at our parish in 2003 and provides 1:1 care after a personal crisis for parish members. Currently at St. Stephen's we have six leaders trained and 60 Stephen Ministers. This ministry is a 3-year commitment.
2. Human Needs Ministry includes:
  - a. Food Pantry
  - b. Meals for those in need
  - c. Rides to Dr. appointments
  - d. Adopt a family at Christmas
  - e. Welcoming ministry after each mass and outreach to new members
3. Fish small groups
4. Bread for the World Sunday (Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>)
5. Interfaith Spiritual Mardi Gras Night (the night before Ash Wednesday)

**Item 2:** Father Jim's Report

1. Parish Mission was a huge success.
2. Card shower from parishioners for Father Jim, Father Andrew, and Father Chi was appreciated.
3. For the 10 PM Sunday news, Father Tiegs will be interviewed on being a pastor of a large parish.

4. The Archdiocesan Program: Catholics Coming Home will begin training 12 members to respond to TV campaign encouraging inactive Catholics to return to the church. This program will start in December.

**Item 3: Stewardship Report**

1. Weekly Stewardship pledge was up \$2,577.00 per week compared to last year.
2. Stewardship actual for the first three months of the fiscal year is \$2,287.00 over last year's amount.
3. The annual Archdiocesan "Feed my Sheep" Appeal goal for 2009/2010 is \$133,038.00. Last year \$99,491.00 was raised from approximately 12% of the total parish. Special thank you to Marvin Winkeler who spoke at all the masses the weekend of Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.
4. The Stewardship renewal mailing for voluntary service and financial gift-giving was mailed to all households on September 30<sup>th</sup>.
5. Steve Swanstrom spoke at all the masses on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> on an overview of stewardship: prayer, service, and funding.
6. Fr. Jim spoke at all the masses on October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> on stewardship of Time, Talent, and Treasure.
7. VERITAS FINANCIAL MINISTRIES program started its general session on Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> for six consecutive Saturdays. There are 11 participants - maximum is 15.
8. ALL SOULS mailing was sent to every household on October 16<sup>th</sup>. The response has been very good.
9. Catholic Evangelist, Matthew Kelley, will be speaking at St. Stephen the Martyr on November 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM, in the worship space. Tickets need to be obtained from the office. The cost is \$5.00.
10. St. Stephen the Martyr will continue to tithe \$35,000.00 to assist Assumption Guadalupe School and church.

**Item 3: General Board Items**

1. On Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, Arch Bishop Lucas will preside over Mass at 8:15 a.m.
2. Ministerial Gathering sub committee will meet at Joan's house on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> to plan content of this event. Tentative date is Tuesday, Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.
3. Thank you note sent to the Parish Council from Cindie and Judy.
4. Next meeting will be at Sherry Solsky's house on Wednesday Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>.

5. Fr. Jim and Marvin will discuss a presenter for the next meeting.

Closing prayer: Annette Wallace