

TO: Finance Committee: Tom Schick, Blake Smith, Kevin Berlon, Joan Couden, Amy Whitlatch, Barbara Beimesch, Liz Keuffer, Karen Brandstetter, Richard Bollman  
FROM: Richard Bollman  
RE: Minutes, May 13, 2010

Joan Couden and Tom Schick were unable to be with us.

1. We approved the minutes except to ask for emendation of the spelling of the names of those present at the Stewardship presentation for the Deanery, February 18. Liz was asked to post the corrected minutes.

2. This led to a discussion of the stewardship program being offered to each parish through the archdiocese through the Cuneen Company. This is not optional, but is adaptable to each parish's needs. The specific hope is to tailor communication that will be motivating to all the registered members of the parish, based in part on their existing giving history. We noted how difficult it is to enlist financial help from all our guests. Many people feel helped by worship at the parish but either do not register or come so seldom there is no sense of a contributing commitment in the offertory collection. Likely there is the conviction that other people help out, perhaps even the University. Karen and Richard will be attending a two day workshop, a "Summit" about stewardship, part of the overall archdiocesan program but planned with nationally recognized presenters. This will take place June 23-24. We agreed we should be careful to proceed with our usual four-color presentation to the parish and use what adjustments come from this new input if we agree they might be helpful.

3. We reviewed the current expenses and revenue figures through April 30, prepared by Liz. Anomalies were noted, and seem to be fewer in number than in former years (places where we underspent significantly, or overspent). Blake and Kevin noted that their projection for the end-of-FY10 come to about 94% of our expectations. Perhaps we will continue to save on expenses and therefore 'break even.' In short, people have been responding to our message, both from the pulpit and the information given in the bulletin. We spent some time discussing the possibility that there are needs we do not address through the parish because we do not have enough income. Some of these needs, which are followed up with programming or retreats, are cared for through our "Special Events" categories, and other budget items that are somewhat open to uses that arise, such as "professional workshops," etc. Other needs might be better met if we had "more staff," but no one was suggesting that the current staff are not doing the job we ask of them. Nor do we seem to be in the position to define and hire a new staff role. Generally, we were able to affirm the giving pattern we see right now, in more difficult financial times, noting even that the dollars collected as offertory this year are slightly higher than last year at this time, even though they fall below the budgeted hopes.

4. We discussed another aspect of promotion and communication about the parish and its offerings, through witness and invitation from parents, for example, who have been satisfied with education opportunities. VBS, now being initiated, might be well served by a short invitation from such parents, as well as the summer and fall religious education programs. The witness of one another raises consciousness of who we are and how we want to grow, and that in itself would make a difference in offerings too. People tend to respond to needs and opportunities that they become aware of.

5. We discussed the membership drive, and intend to make short announcements about this on Sunday, May 23: Amy Whitlatch (or sub) at 9; Tom Schick at 11; Kevin Berlon at 7.

6. Richard sought advice about salaries in the new budget which he will use in preparing that portion of the budget. The entire budget draft will be the subject of review at our next meeting, June 17, 6 p.m., Gallagher Center 3rd floor.

Submitted by Richard Bollman