**St. Brendan’s Stewardship Commission Meeting Minutes**

May 23, 2015

Present – Bill Nash (chair), Julie Spencer (co-chair), Ed Spencer, Mark Patterson, Marie Hedden, Carlos Villarreal, John Phillips (staff), and Deacon José Blakeley.   
Absent – Bob Walsh, Jo Hanson, and Chris Gutierrez (PC representative)

**SC collaboration with Youth & Young Adult Ministry (Andrew Krieger)**

Andrew plans to begin a Youth Group Greeter ministry, where YG members will greet parishioners at the church doors before masses. Andrew is looking for more YG members and adult volunteers in part for this ministry. Andrew and Tammy asked if the SC could help schedule and plan a Youth Ministry Fair to recruit new members in early fall (September?) (similar to the annual Parish Ministry Fair). Commission members present voiced their support. (Email on this will be sent to SC members.)

**Request for Input on Parish Retreat (Tammy Krieger)**

Tammy has been asked by numerous parishioners when St. Brendan will hold another parish retreat, similar to the “Fire it Up!” retreat (Feb 2014). Fr. Jim asked that this retreat be held in the fall (likely in October). The retreat theme will be “Soul On Fire” after the song by the popular Christian group “Third Day”. A core team has been established. Tammy is beginning to spread the word to multiple parish groups—Stewardship Commission is first on her list. The “Fire it Up!” retreat team had 50 people, and about 150 attended. Tammy suspects 300 may attend this year’s retreat. Deacon José recommended that the newly formed Hispanic Commission be requested for input and help in planning and conducting the retreat. (Bill will forward Tammy’s email on this topic to all SC members).

**Begin an “Eyes and Ears” standing topic for SC meetings?**

It was felt that the SC is essentially doing this now with our “Check In” process (although we missed it this meeting due to guest presentations by Andrew and Tammy)

**Review and approve April minutes – All**

Mark and Bill will rework the April meeting Minutes with more detail.

**Stewardship As a Parish –** Announcement was run in the Parish Bulletin for three weeks

**Pending parish budget cuts – Meeting with Fr. Jim, May 6 –** Bill and Jason Swager met with Fr. Jim, who shared that the parish financial situation has improved since January, and necessary cuts will be smaller than he had expected. Fr. Jim said all parish services will continue but some staff hours will be cut, which will impact service levels. More volunteer hours in some areas may be needed. Fr. Jim also mentioned that some unexpected extra parish school expenses which must be addressed had just been reported. He didn’t know how that would turn out during our meeting.

**Parish 5 Year Plan – Discussion held in last PC meeting, May 7**

Progress has been made in accomplishing some 5 Year Plan goals, but they are not well documented. Bill and Jason Swager will update the Plan and post the updated file on the website.

**Hispanic Integration (Discussion: Hispanic Ministry Survey)**

Deacon José shared a survey and DVD given to him by Isaac Govea. The survey is intended to gather data from parish leaders to assess the state of Hispanic integration in the parish. The DVD is educational on the challenges and opportunities of implementing a parish Hispanic ministry. It comes with a suggested group viewing and discussion agenda.

José will review the DVD and report back to the SC. In a prior email José recommended the SC consider forming a small task force led by SC with Pastoral Council members, to kick off the process, frame the next steps, and produce a timeline. We should confirm this plan with Fr. Jim. Bill will schedule a meeting with Fr. Jim (and Julie and/or José) to discuss.

**Sound system upgrade**

The church sound system is being replaced. So far the equipment rack has been upgraded from the old analog system to a new digital system. In a few weeks the speakers will be replaced with new speakers distributed around the nave.

**Welcome Social report (May 2)**

Bill reported that 76 people were served, with 32 staff and 44 new parishioners. As of this point 139 new parishioners have been served at the Newcomer socials. Bill mentioned next tasks for the Welcome Committee are to develop a charter and partnering relationships with other parish ministries, such as the Hospitality Ministry.

**Discernment for 2015 Stewardship Candidates:** Who have we approached to prayerfully consider discerning for Stewardship Commission? (Regrettably, we did not get to this in the meeting due to schedule constraints.)

***All SC members are strongly encouraged to invite others to the Discernment Day, June 6, 9 – 11 AM in the Church! Alternatively, invite them to our next SC meeting on June 27.***

**Staff report –** ACA, Budget, Weekly Donations, Deficit Appeal, YTD status: John first mentioned an article he brought for all to read, titled “Your Average American Catholic.” He reported that the parish would end the fiscal year with a budget deficit of about $170K. Bill questioned that number, as it was shared in the Pastoral Council meeting that the $75K shortfall reported in January had been reduced to about $35K; and that the parish has cut expenses since January, which is also helping to improve the financial situation. The SC members consensus is that the parish’s financial status remains very unclear and is not getting clearer. This is very unsettling in light of the fact that the parish FY ends in June. Bill stated he would send Fr. Jim an email to this effect.

**PC Report** – Bill Nash (Chris Gutierrez is in Mexico City): Bill will email Chris’ report to all SC members.

We closed the meeting praying an Our Father.

Bill adjourned the meeting at 10:50.