Stewardship Committee Meeting

August 18, 2026

Egg Harbor Site

Our Mission: *"Stella Maris Catholic Parish prayerfully unites people in the love of Jesus guided by our patron, Mary."*

Our Vision: *We invite all to journey as disciples. By sharing the Gospel, responding to Jesus' love and the gifts God has given us, we welcome all to grow in faith and in our parish life.*

****This was a combined Volunteer Appreciation Event planning meeting and a regular Stewardship meeting.**

Attendees: Bernie Freeman, Mark Loper, Jody Weitman, Jim Perry, John Talley, Laura Paider **Additional Guests:** Connie Brandt, Kathy Wolff, Jan Liss.

Absent: Tom Polacek, Larry Leporte

Call to Order: Bernie opened the planning meeting at 9:00am

Opening Prayer: Bernie

Volunteer Event Portion

Review of 2026 Volunteer Appreciation Timeline

- The timeline for the Celebration was reviewed and updated. Items of note:
    - Lorie has made a request to Kevin to place the save-the-date flyer on the website.
    - Jan will send the Council and Committee chairs a reminder to invite their fellow committee members to attend the event.
    - Prior to September 4, Larry will send a reminder for the event to all volunteers via MSP
    - Fr.Jerry will give an opening prayer before dinner
    - The idea of an RSVP was suggested. This option will be revisited next year.
    - All other updates are captured on Checklist

Review of 2026 Volunteer Appreciation Details Checklist

- Details for the event were reviewed and updated. Items of note:

- Jan will find another person to act as registrar with her.
- Lynn will make meatballs for this year's main dish.
- Kathy will coordinate the desserts, with help from Connie
- All other details are captured on Checklist

Planning Meeting Adjourned 9:55am

Stewardship Meeting Portion

Call to Order: 10:00am

Attendees: Bernie Freeman, Mark Loper, Jody Weitman, Jim Perry, John Talley, Laura Paider **Additional Guests:** Connie Brandt, Jan Liss

Absent: Tom Polacek, Larry Leporte

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the May 5, 2026, meeting were approved by consensus.

Time and Talent Drive Recap

- Bernie shared a breakdown of the volunteer forms received. Highlights include:
  - 128 forms were received, down from 143 forms in 2025. Reasons for the decline were discussed.
  - There were 12 new volunteers.
- The timeliness of contacting volunteers who signed up for a Worship-related ministry was brought up. Additionally, the process of who contacts whom was questioned. It was decided to table this item until the October meeting.
- Having the names of the lead person for each ministry will assist in timely contacts. As a group, we will work to attach names to each ministry by the October meeting.

"Spotlight on Parish Ministries" Update

- Bernie shared the list of the 25 ministry articles written during 2026.
- A number of ministries still need articles written.
- It was suggested to reuse and "loop" the articles throughout the year. Bernie will check with Lorie on the feasibility of doing this.

Ministry Volunteers Witness Speakers

- The idea of having speakers present a talk on the benefits of volunteering in August and October has been scrapped; it was not deemed beneficial.

Recognition of Volunteers

- Fr. Jerry agreed to give volunteers a blessing at all the Masses the weekend of September 19/20. .

Stewardship Committee Annual Report

- Bernie shared the Stewardship Committee's Annual Report for FY2026.
- This will be included in the Parish's Annual Report packet.

2026 Meeting Dates

All meetings will be held at 3:30pm at the Egg Harbor site, unless otherwise noted.

Next meeting:

- October 13

Closing Prayer: Committee members

Meeting adjourned: 10:55am

Respectfully submitted, Jody Weitman