

Stewardship: A Disciple's Response

Parish Life Spotlight: Bridge Flight

"I'll raise it to three hearts." Bridge has been a part of many parishioners' lives for years. It is a game requiring skill, focus and a wish for challenge. Genevieve Beckwith says "It is also a good opportunity to meet with friends." This is a social group indeed with over one hundred meetings a year. People play as a pair or team for the entire year. Four people, two teams, play a round of bridge. Teams are organized as "flights" of eight people and meet once each month from September through May. Meetings typically take place in members' homes. Some flights meet the first Thursday of each month or another regular time, while others must organize their schedules more flexibly to accommodate varied calendars.

The meetings take place during a weekday, weekends or evenings. It all depends on the group. When asked about scheduling, Genevieve said "In some cases play starts at 11:00am in the morning, there is a break for lunch at an area restaurant and then play resumes till around 3:00pm, it varies with each of the flights." The events often include snacks or desserts as well as refreshments.

St. Sebastian currently has seven flights, two couples flights and five singles flights. There is also a group of folks who substitute when people are traveling or have a last minute conflict.

Bridge is a challenging game. It can be played as "party" or "duplicate" bridge. During each meeting, twenty hands of bridge are played. Party bridge is the traditional form of the game where new hands are dealt each round and players bid on the cards they are holding, predicting how many tricks their team can take during that particular hand. Scores are kept based on their bids and play of the hand. Duplicate bridge is similar except the cards are pre-dealt in sets of hands. Teams rotate through these pre-dealt sets, bidding and playing out the hands the same as in party bridge. In this form of the game,

teams can apply their style of play to the same cards others have played and score differently. Duplicate bridge reduces the chance dimension of the game and allows the teams to gauge their skills against the group.

As you may have guessed, an organization like this requires a fair amount of planning. Anne Hergenrother and Genevieve Beckwith handle the bulk of this organizing. They divide players into the flights and then define the team rotations. The individual flights handle their own scheduling. Results of play are forwarded to Anne and Genevieve then tallied. Each member pays \$10 per year to participate. An awards dinner is held each June to recognize those teams with high scores in the various categories. Anne said "The prizes are simple and the dinner is a good opportunity for members to meet." Each year a decision is made at the dinner to direct the money raised by membership to a specific group or effort within the parish. The money has been donated to scholarships, Zwisler Hall Renovation, among other needs. The dinners have been held at different locations, this year's dinner will be at Portage Country Club.

If you are interested in joining the group, all that is needed is an understanding of the game, including play and scoring. If you would like to give it a try before jumping in with both feet consider singing up to substitute. Contact Anne Hergenrother at 330-836-5843 or abhergen@sssnet.com.

"I consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them insignificant, that I may gain Christ..."
(Philippians 3:8)

Learning to see our material possessions are insignificant, compared to other features of our lives, is an important step in growing closer to Jesus Christ. We are then better able to give more freely and joyfully.

Commitment Cards

Many of you handed in your commitment cards. Thank you very much. We have received cards from approximately 300 families at this time. A reminder mailing is going out to households that have not taken an opportunity to respond. If you have not been able to complete and submit the card for your household, please take time to prayerfully consider your existing commitments of time, talent and treasure and send it in today. Again, thank you.