

Stone Soup: Share the vision!

In the story of Stone Soup, the hero has a vision—a delicious meal. Then he explores his assets. He has a soup pot, materials to make a fire, water, and a stone. He takes what he has and begins. Then he shares the vision and the specific needs with others.

1. Vision
2. Assess resources
3. Take some forward action
4. Share vision and needs (You, too, could be part of this great work!)
5. Allow the vision to grow as the community around it grows. Celebrate current abundance!

Some Ideas

1. Fund raisers: You have to be passionate and they are a lot of work. At Church of the Redeemer we gave them up to do ministry instead.
2. Maximize your building use: We rent the Parish Hall for “religious celebrations”. It’s work and takes patience and PR with members, but we take in \$25,000/year. It is building use reimbursement, so we pay no assessment on these funds. We also rent the sanctuary to other small worship groups for Sunday afternoon. This income with the AA rental contribution pays the church utilities. We still use the buildings for our own projects and give space free of charge to folks like the Girl Scouts.
3. Network about your needs: We always get 2 or 3 “grant” contributions from people who don’t attend our church, but know about our work. You have to let people know your need and your ministry challenge.
4. Grants: I think this is the best and easiest source of money for ministry projects. It will sometimes pay for project salaries, but as far as I know, it never pays for the priest!
 - a. Beware: Grants are a great source of income, but since the money is not raised by the community, it is often hard to communicate with the general population about its limitations. (“What do you mean we can’t afford to pay the organist? We just got a new van!”)
5. Social Enterprise: Long ago monasteries and convents had businesses. These businesses provided local employment as well as church revenue. Today ministry groups are adopting that model with social enterprises. These small businesses provide sustainability for themselves and their parent organizations as well as minister to the vocational and community needs of those involved. At Grace, Nampa, we are exploring the possibilities of opening a cupcake/coffee house in our old rectory. It would provide a neighborhood gathering place, we could do evening events for NNU students, and we would provide needed employment and training for our underemployed population.

