

**Minutes**  
**St. Rita Parish Pastoral Council**  
**November 20, 2006**

**Attendees:**

Bill Burns	Marti Mauro
Drew Demarais	Bernadette Rall
John McDermott	Fr. Chuck Latus
Drew Smith	Jim Sauer
Peter Charleton	Tom Swovick
Dottie DeLano	Betsy Swovick
Ann Tiberio	Claire Schum
Dan Hohl	

**Excused:**

Maureen Morehouse	Dick Wagner
Sr. Katherine Ann Rapp	Pat Vargas

**Opening prayer:** Bernadette Rall

**Strategic Planning / "Pillars" - Tim Mason:** Explained how the committee evolved as a need to resolve issues for moving forward on church enhancement. They are working on a vision statement for St Rita's Parish. The plan aligns with the diocesan strategic plan. The goal is to generate spiritual vitality through faith formation, ministry support, evangelization, social action, and parish operations. They hope to present a plan to the parish in late January 07 and follow up with a questionnaire to the congregation to help complete the plan and vision statement.

**Bishops Hubbard's Letter - Fr. Chuck:** This month's section of the reflection discussed how Jesus is the focus of our life and the foundation of our faith. There is a need to listen to each other and give hope regardless of differences. The "Pillars" group hopes to provide ways to better relate - [see question 4](#). We should continue to read through the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph on page 5 and reflect on questions 5 & 6 for next time.

**Approval of Council Minutes - Bill Burns:**

- The minutes of the October 2006 meeting were approved.
- Pot luck dinner sign up
- PPC decided to give a gift to a charity in honor of your buddy (to your buddy)

**Constitution Update - Drew Smith / Peter Charleton:**

- Thought the Pillars committee may have an effect on the definition of the core / standing committees
- Would like to have the Core committees approve of their section in the constitution

- The format of the document is difficult to read. They recommend updating the format of the complete document and also aligning it with the Diocesan guidelines. This means completing the unfinished sections and then reviewing the previous updates to make the document consistent throughout.

### **Liaison Reports:**

#### **Finance - Marti Mauro:**

Budget has a deficit balance as of 9/30/06 quarterly statement - this will be published in the bulletin soon. There was a recommendation to show the weekly donations to date compared to last year's donations to date or the percent of weekly donations to the budget to provide a status of where we are financially.

#### **Youth - Clare Schum / Dan Hohl:**

The Pasta dinner served approx. 250 people and made \$2400 profit. They earned \$1100 toward retreat funds and have earned over \$6000 for youth group events.

There was a scavenger hunt on 11/12. The Youth Group will help with the Knights of Columbus annual Christmas party.

#### **Social Action - Dick Wagner:** the information was read into the minutes as Dick was absent

I spoke with Gene (3 week's ago), this is what they are to:

- They have picked up 3 new members to their committee
- Some members attended a meeting at St. Bernard's regarding Migrant Ministries. They are investigating ways to reach larger groups of migrants. They are considering possible fund raising events.
- They will be running the Thanksgiving Day Food Drive. Youth Group to assist.
- They will be running the Christmas Gift Program.
- They are looking to assist the Parish in obtaining a Defibrillator for the Church area.

#### **Knight's of Columbus:** Dick Wagner the information was read into the minutes as Dick was absent

- Nov 18 Annual Charity Ball to benefit Project Rachael and Webster Churches Habitat Coalition
- Dec Keep Christ in Christmas signs posted at Webster Churches and around town
- Dec 4 Annual FLDDSO Children's Christmas Party ( St Rita Youth Group have been ask to help out - waiting their answer)
- Dec 21 Annual Red Cross Blood Drive at the Webster Columbus Center

### **Father Chuck's Comments:**

- Catholic Ministries Appeal:
  - Raised 73% of goal - approx \$72,000
  - Over 600 families have contributed
  - The "thermometer" and bulletin list with contributors has been helpful
- Everyone is invited to join in the Thanksgiving mass on Thursday.
- New Orleans:
  - The work we've done is much appreciated. Although, people are tired of rebuilding.

- 80%-90% of the people in the area have returned. The parish has lost around 20% of its parishioners, mostly those who lived in rental properties and still do not have work to return to.
- While there they met with various groups to see what still needs to be done and how we can help them.
  - We'll continue to assist through Helping Hands and sending people.
  - May also participate in a choir exchange
  - Recommend gift cards to hardware stores (Home Depot, WalMart & Target)

**Closing Prayer: Bill Burns**

Respectfully Submitted:

Marti Mauro

11/20/06