

Minutes
St. Rita Parish Pastoral Council
January 22, 2007

Attendees:

Bill Burns	Marti Mauro	Dan Hohl
Drew Demarais	Bernadette Rall	Ann Tiberio
John McDermott	Maureen Morehouse	Claire Schum
Drew Smith	Jim Sauer	Betsy Swovick
Pat Vargas	Dick Wagner	Dottie DeLano

Excused:

Fr. Chuck Latus	Peter Charleton	Tom Swovick
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Opening prayer: John McDermott

As part of the opening prayer service, a bowl of rose petals was passed around. Each council member chose petal on which there was a word. We were asked to reflect on that word tonight and through out the rest of the Council year.

Bishops Hubbard's Letter -

This month's questions dealt with assessing the wants and needs of a parish. Are our needs being met? We have over 70 committees at our parish. Are they all still needed or should there be others instead. Committees need to evaluate themselves in light of the parish mission statement. Some committees have a hard time with membership and as a result may not be able to best serve the parish. We concluded that more communication to parishioners is needed. The bulletin should be utilized more. Information on/from committees should appear on a regular basis.

FOR NEXT MONTH: Continue reading from where we left off this month through to page 7 end of paragraph 4 which ends with "The church does not exist for its own sake. We have a job to do." We will discuss questions #7 to #10.

Approval of Council Minutes - Bill Burns:

- The minutes of the November 2006 meeting were approved.
- New holders now on the Parish Council bulletin board for the minutes to be displayed

Budget Review - Kathy Johnson:

- We are in the same position that we were in October 2006 (no major problem but no good news either)
- Will put in the bulletin the numbers for the first half of the current fiscal .

- Collections, in the statement, will look like we are ahead but that is a timing issue (5 weeks in Dec this year/last year Jan had 5 weeks)
- CYO net income is up this year
- Mortgage balance as of Dec 31st is \$440,00
- We made our goal for the CMA (Catholic Ministry Appeal) BUT this year there is an added twist. If people don't pay their pledges the parish must make them up

Fiesta Tithing - Bill Burns:

- The Fiesta committee suggested this year's tithing (10% of net) go to the city of New Orleans in addition to St. Clemens of Rome
- Last year's donation was \$4000 (\$2000 from the Fiesta itself, \$1000 donated by the winner of "The Last Golfer" contest and \$1000 matching gift from a parishioner)
- John M. mentioned that St. Clemens is well on its way to recovery

Strategic Planning ("Pillars") Committee:

- There are about 30 people on this committee from all "parts" of the parish. They worked with staff and the Stewardship to come up with this plan
- Tim Mason will give the presentation to the parish the weekend of Feb 27th and 28th
- There will be a mailing going to all registered parishioners.
- Will ask the people to validate the goals presented; some goals may be changed due to the feedback we get
- Mailing will serve as a parish census
- As neither Tim nor Father were at the meeting members posed a number of questions still to be answered. Here are the questions with Tim's answers:
 1. What is the timeline for the packet of information being sent to parishioners? --- families will be receiving a packet at home within the next two weeks for their input.
 2. Is it possible for the council member to preview the packet? --- I'd be glad to have a council member review prior to distributing.
 3. Is there going to be contact person if we or parishioners have questions? --- Fr. Chuck and I can be the contact people if there are questions.
 4. We understand there is going to be a post card for parishioners to give input as to what they would like to see happen at St. Rita parish. Who is going compiling this data/information? --- Haven't figured out yet about the compiling of the information. I will probably have one of my staff members help in compiling the data -- both quantitatively and qualitatively.

Roundtable:

- There was a Thank you note from the Boy Scouts for letting them come to the Council meeting

- The question was posed -- How come the notice on the church doors has neighboring churches' mass times but doesn't have our mass times?
- From the suggestion box -- there was a concern that at morning Mass there is so much talking in church (and near the doorways) that it is hard for people to have quiet time for prayer after mass. Ann will take this concern to the Liturgy committee

Father Chuck's Comments:

As Father was absent there were no comments from him.

Closing Prayer: Ann Tiberio

Respectfully Submitted;
Maureen Morehouse
2/3/07