

Minutes
St. Rita Parish Pastoral Council
February 12, 2007

Attendees:

Bill Burns	Marti Mauro	Dan Hohl
Drew Demarais	Bernadette Rall	Ann Tiberio
Fr Chuck Latus	Maureen Morehouse	Claire Schum
Drew Smith	Jim Sauer	Betsy Swovick
Pat Vargas	Dick Wagner	Tom Swovick
Peter Charleton		

Excused:

Dottie DeLano	John McDermott
Sister Katherine Ann	

Opening prayer: Drew Smith

Bishops Hubbard's Letter -

This month's questions dealt with a variety of issues. One of the concerns was how a parish council deals with having prayer time vs. having time to do parish business. We need to discuss the good things we are doing and not always focus on the negative or what we aren't doing. We also talked about the future and how our church will grow. We need to grow in our spirituality and provide a way for people to do this. We as catholic sometimes have a difficulty with the word Evangelization as many think of it as "street corner preaching" when in fact it means revitalizing our faith.

FOR NEXT MONTH: Continue reading from where we left off last month through to the top two lines on page 9. We will discuss questions #11 and #12

Approval of Council Minutes - Bill Burns:

- The minutes of the January 2007 meeting were approved with the following corrections:
 - Add Sister Katherine Ann to the attendees list
 - Tim Mason "Pillars" presentation was the weekend of Jan 27th/28th (not Feb 27th/28th)
 - The Fiesta tithing is to go to Catholic Charities of New Orleans Katrina Fund not the city of New Orleans
 - Our sister parish is St. Clement of Rome and not St. Clemens of Rome
 - Maureen Morehouse did the minutes and not Marti Mauro

Stewardship: Jim Sauer

- The "Love My Parish Love to Travel" drawing will be held on Wed Feb. 14th at 5:00pm in the Narthex.
 - As of 2/13 there were 864 tickets sold (vs. 700 last yr). From the campaign at the weekend Masses 208 were sold. The goal was to sell at least 900 tickets.
 - The only expense, outside of the prize, for this fund raiser was the mailing. All the printing costs were donated.
- At the end of April or the beginning of May the committee is planning on having personal witnessing about stewardship at the weekend Masses
- The committee is working on setting up a more finite treasure part to stewardship.

Roundtable:

- St. Rita Society News
 - The annual Communion Breakfast was Feb 11th. The speaker was Sr. Therese Richardson, RSM one of the Lenten speakers. She was very good. Everyone enjoyed themselves.
 - The Pie Sale was a HUGE success. Over \$500 was raised for Society activities. Items were baked not only by Society members but by parishioners too
- There were 5 boys from the parish who have received their Eagle Scout award this year.
- Bill asked if we, as council members, had heard anything about the parish debt. Many members said yes they had. Most comments stated that people felt we shouldn't build/remodel the church until this current debt is paid off. Many parishioners thought we were going to use PIF (Partners in Faith) money to pay down the mortgage.
- Suggestions Box had two items in it both of which were unsigned
 - Wanted shorter homilies
 - The clips on the tags that the various Mass ministers (ushers, Eucharistic) wear should be longer
- In the suggestion box there was a completed survey form -- the one new parishioners get. The form had all the parish committees listed. We are glad to know that such a listening exists and wondered if it was possible for us to see it as this ties in with Pillars

Strategic Planning ("Pillars") Committee:

- Council felt Tim Mason's presentation to the parish was great.
- The mailing, mentioned in the talk, will be mailed out in the next week or two. It is still being worked on at this time.

- Council members would like to see what is being mailed before it goes out. Tim was emailed this request.
- A suggestion was made to see if the survey/questionnaire included in the mailing could be put on the parish website for people to fill in online. This too is being forwarded to Tim.

Father Chuck's Comments:

- St. Clement of Rome parish is well on its way to recovery.
 - In the works is for the pastor and deacon to make a return visit in late April
 - Another group of Webster people will be going down in March to work with Helping Hands (part of Catholic Charities of New Orleans)
 - In the planning stages a teen project
- There were 26 teens at the retreat this year and that is up from last year.
- The Lenten schedule that was going to be mailed out during the week was given to us. Father gave a plug for the Monday retreat speakers. There was a concern about how parents with young children would be able to attend the Lenten retreats. Would there be babysitting provided? Why were there no Lenten activities for children other than the coloring book that is a companion to the "Little Black book"? In the future the planners should consider family activities—grow together in our Faith
- On Jan 30th, 108 children were Confirmed. The ceremony was beautiful. Candidates took an active part in the service as readers, cantors and Eucharistic ministers,
- In conjunction with the Stewardship discussion, we are changing our envelope company. We will be going to Sunday Visitor; we now have Cathedral Printing. This move will save the parish around \$2000
- We are one of only about 25 parishes that made their CMA (Catholic Ministries Appeal) goal
- The current bank balance in the Partner in Faith account is around \$260,000
- He received an invitation to the announcement that Bishop Kearney High School was forming a partnership with Tom Galissano

Closing Prayer: Besty Swovick

Respectfully Submitted;
Maureen Morehouse
2/18/07