

Minutes
St. Rita Parish Pastoral Council
September 17, 2007

Attendees:

Fr. Chuck Latus	Chris Mauro	Elisabeth Swovick
Tom Bayer	Marti Mauro	Lisa Swovick
Paul Dangler	John O'Connor	Ann Tiberio
Dottie DeLano	Bernadette Rall	Barb Tatanus
Fr. Hoan Dinh	Sr. Katherine Ann Rappl	Lauren Wynne
Rich Engel	Jim Sauer	

Excused:

Drew Desmarais	John McDermott	Dick Wagner
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Opening Prayer: Fr. Chuck

Reading of Vision Statement from State of Parish Report: *To nurture and grow the spiritual vitality of each and every Saint Rita parishioner and support them along their life journey as Disciples of Christ while fostering a vibrant, engaging, welcoming faith community.*

Round Table: Each member of the Council expressed their hopes for the year to come. Following is a summary:

- productive year for the Parish Pastoral Council
- more spiritual conversation and not all business
- meeting goals of our "Pillars" vision by discussing plans of action to move us in that direction
- successful stewardship program
- having a balanced budget that meets our operating needs
- more focus on social action opportunities
- nurture and grow as individuals
- more faith formation opportunities, especially for young adults
- see more youth get involved with parish and school activities
- effective communication among Council, as well as to the St. Rita Parish
- better define the structure and responsibility of this Council

Update on Stewardship and CMA: Fr. Chuck & Tony Barbeau

- State of the Parish Report going in mail later this week to parishioners; more comprehensive report coming to Council – The Pillars liaison spoke to Tim Mason, who would like to report to Council in about a month
- Deacon John to speak at masses this weekend regarding stewardship; masses followed by Stewardship Fair

- Following week, letter and commitment card to be mailed; weekend of 9/29 & 9/30, witness talks during masses; commitment cards to be returned by weekend of 10/6-10/7
- When cards returned, thank you letters will be sent; reminder letters will also go out for cards not returned
- Focus is that all our gifts are in gratitude for God – not necessarily what parish needs
- Stewardship is long, ongoing process
- CMA goal for St. Rita's is up to \$97,000 for this coming year
- Makes sense to combine parish giving with CMA drive; should consider whole giving plan to parish and diocese; less weekends asking for money; CMA video to be shown 2nd weekend in October
- Fr. Chuck grateful to Tim Mason for work on Parish Survey; also very grateful to Tony Barbeau for keeping process going throughout summer by reviewing Financial Reports for year and compiling figures for Parish Report; Stewardship Committee has put in many hours of hard work
- Financials in the Parish Report include all aspects of parish, including fundraising, mortgage expense and operating expenses; not always reported in one place so numbers may seem different than previously reported
- An increase in giving, by 5%, would put us in the black
- Fr. Chuck stated salvation is not in fundraising – it is in stewardship to parish
- Financial Committee has five new members; John Casper is hoping to mentor someone on the Committee to chair in future

Update on Mortgage & Property Sale: Fr. Chuck

- PIF commitment includes: 1. pastoral care; 2. enlarge and enhance parish space; and 3. reduce mortgage; 2 & 3 are intertwined; have had one gift designated for enlargement and 1 significantly larger gift designated for enhancement of space
- HSBC bank of choice for long time; had reduced rate on mortgage as long as all accounts were with HSBC; reluctant to renegotiate and unwilling to drop fee for direct deposit
- HSBC agreed to negotiate and drop fees for direct deposit to avoid St. Rita's dropping all accounts; John Casper played big role in negotiating with HSBC – Fr. Chuck very grateful; now have 5-yr mortgage for about \$215,000, which brought monthly mortgage payments down from \$5800 to \$2700
- Property Sale – process began with Bill Burns; continued with Fr. Chuck, Tim Mason and Jim Sauer; what comes in from sale will go back in PIF fund to reimburse money used to reduce mortgage

- Schantz Homes owns parcels surrounding school, convent and soccer fields; St. Rita has property that would bridge two parcels together so Schantz can build homes; property cannot be developed, so of no use to St. Rita's
- Diocesan attorneys at Harris, Beach responsible for legal process; proposal must go through Finance Council, Parish Pastoral Council, Diocesan Stewardship Committee, the Bishop's consultants and the Bishop; final deal must be approved by State Supreme Court because non-profit entity
- Initial discussion, Schantz suggested \$12,500/acre for just over 6 acres; requires 75 foot buffer around St. Rita property, however, most areas already have 100 foot buffer of trees that will not be disturbed
- Formal offer for \$16,000/acre; Schantz pays survey costs, some attorney fees (to pass through State Supreme Court) and some court costs
- Property to close by June 30, 2008 (St. Rita year end); gives time for Schantz to get town approval and for St. Rita to break off and sell two small pieces of land (bank needs own survey and appraisal for these pieces); if does not go through, Schantz owes St. Rita's \$10,000; since money is going back into PIF fund, can be flexible with timing; total should be \$96,000 – 100,000, depending on miscellaneous costs for process
- Schantz will pay when approved by Webster Town Board; no zoning or wetlands issues so should be approved

Family Education Approach: Fr. Chuck reported for John McDermott & Drew Desmarais

- John trying to form marriage group for young married couples; will report on progress at next meeting
- Drew would like to have a family religious study group that would meet once a month; will report on at next meeting
- if all current children were enrolled for religious education, there would be 400 children of age

Study Piece for Discussion: Fr. Chuck

- Council will take one pillar each month and see what is presently being done and how to proceed with items not being addressed – can be done by comparing Pillar with relevant groups covered in Parish Survey; St. Rita Staff will also be looking at each pillar
- Pillar review would initiate discussion among Parish Pastoral Council and members of St. Rita's community that currently chair relevant committees; Council will keep in touch with various groups to insure follow up
- **First Pillar to review for October is Faith Formation;** Council members should read and analyze – Mary Jo DiNoto and Drew

Desmarais will be asked to report on Faith Formation activities, so Council is aware of activities already associated with this Pillar; Mary Jo doing great job with Youth Group – 45 youth at first meeting, 33 for winter retreat and 19-20 youth going to National Catholic Youth Conference

- Suggested Council not feel constrained to getting through all six Pillars in one year; it may take more than one meeting for Council to discuss possible actions, have a committee report on their activities related to the Pillar, and insure action is being taken
- Fr. Chuck believes there will be some open-ended discussion, not just what we are currently doing

Closing Prayer: Lauren Wynne

Closing Comments: Marti Mauro

- Next meeting October 15th; Council picture will be taken
- Minutes and agenda for next meeting will be sent at least 1 1/2 weeks before meeting; let Marti know by September 29th if have an agenda item

Respectfully submitted: Bernadette Rall