

Minutes
St. Rita Parish Pastoral Council
October 15, 2007

Attendees:

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

Excused:

Fr. Hoan Dinh

Opening Prayer: Sr. Katherine Ann

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.*

Confirmation of September minutes: Minutes were approved with one change in wording

Council Picture: Steve Kwiatkowski took picture of Council

Stewardship/CMA Update: Fr. Chuck, Jim Sauer

- Stewardship Committee met today; positive return on commitment cards – 275 commitment cards – all but 46 committed to a treasure gift (many said giving same as last year, but did not list amount); 20 commitment cards from non-members of parish; commitments over weekly goal and budget goal; all have been thanked
- Fr. Chuck grateful to Jim and Tony for work on Stewardship Committee; also grateful to Linda Barbeau and Karen Casper – both compiling information on computer including lists of people interested in specific committees; Committee Chairs will contact volunteers and Stewardship Committee will follow up; most cards showed some type of committee involvement or interest – about 60 listed committees they want to join
- St. Rita's shifting to direct deposit with no fees through HSBC; commitment cards - 10 new direct deposits, 5 renewals that went up and 5 renewals that stayed the same; Karen only one handling gifts to respect confidentiality of parishioners; process appears to have been going smoothly

- CMA goal \$97,613 – to date, have \$20,373 pledged, 219 donors, 21% of goal; good start; the term “stewardship” being used by diocese – used in CMA video shown at masses last weekend; reminders for CMA gifts to go in bulletin
- Baskets for commitment cards out one more weekend; one more letter – by bulk mail - to non-responders; some changes for stewardship for next year – less fancy brochure and change timing of stewardship fair; Sunday before Thanksgiving – coffee and donuts in Narthex to thank parish; compared to other parishes using same stewardship idea, St. Rita’s off to great start

Round Table:

- St. Clement of Rome - 2 groups a year going to New Orleans – spring and fall; Larry Winter has set up 5 people to travel week of October 22nd – 4 from Holy Trinity and 1 from Holy Spirit; will work with Operation Helping Hands
- Marriage Enrichment Group being created – Saturday nights – 7 pm once a month, especially young couples; short presentation by host couple on specific topic – questions for individual couples to discuss – sharing answers with whole group – dessert; babysitting available through Youth Group
- Fundraiser for Ellen Smith – Pasta dinner at Knights of Columbus on November 30th - \$10 per dinner; also online auction - go to website <http://ellen-marie-smith.com> for updates; parish will give gift from Outreach Fund
- Pre Cana held last weekend at St. Rita’s for 12 couples from the Diocese; couples spent day with team and went to 5 pm mass
- National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) – Columbus, OH - Rochester Diocese has had largest group of youth last few years – except for host Diocese; significant contribution from parishioners
- Youth Group made about \$1800 from pasta dinner; youth will go on retreat in January
- Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts had retreat at Camp Cutler 2 weeks ago – 75 participants had a good time
- One page budget update presented; no chairperson for Finance Committee yet but group of volunteers are all pitching in; mortgage payment adjustment – July \$5836/month – changed to August \$2725 due to mortgage pay down; operating surplus still negative (24,407) but better than original number; stewardship effort cost \$8-9,000 – not budgeted but necessary; will know more next month about revenue – trend is hopeful
- Land sale moving along – offer of \$16,000/acre has been accepted; letter needed for release of lien to sell off small parcels; bank needed own appraisal and legal description of parcels; all proceeds to go back to PIF – about \$80-100,000;

- St. Rita gets half of PIF payments on quarterly basis – each time the Diocese reminds us of original case for PIF – reduce mortgage (done), staffing adjustments (done) and enlarge/enhance worship space; an individual gift of \$250,000 was promised for the enhancement reserve fund – to date, we have received \$120,000
- Building and Grounds – most items delayed due to cost, including lines and sealing in parking lot – hopefully can do next year; back dock ices over and creates problem – repair put on hold, but working on strategies to deal with for this winter
- Dove Program – driving elderly to doctors and grocery stores; has 26 stewards, but only 4 people using program right now – needs to be advertised
- Help Wanted list will be created for Stewardship to go in bulletin – continuous advertising for volunteers – subs for Religious Ed program, linens program, etc.
- WPCC – first week in March – first Interparochial Lenten Retreat; schedule will be advertised in all parishes; Mass for Thanksgiving for WPCC parishes to bring altogether – at St. Rita’s the day before Thanksgiving; St. Rita choir will lead effort and invite other choirs to join; Fr. Chuck to preside and will ask Fr. Stan to preach
- Knights of Columbus – CNB party on December 3rd for FLDDSO – an organization for mentally and physically challenged adults in Monroe County; turkey dinner with DJ – 120–150 people; Knights sponsoring residence home near Spry – take residents out once a year; donations made to St. Paul’s, Holy Trinity, St. Rita’s and Mary of the Lake churches for NCYC trip to Ohio
- St. Rita School Marathon – great day – 100% participation by children
- Liturgy Committee met on September 25th – first Sunday in Advent – communion to homebound – communion holders on altar during mass and parishioners will be called up to get holder and have blessed; standing during certain parts of liturgy being discussed by Committee; Day of Reflection on October 27th – all ministries were invited and encouraged to attend – Fr. Joe Kelly from Nazareth to discuss how to reflect and pray
- St. Rita Society served 200 roast beef dinners and made about \$1,000 - \$500 was given to youth group toward youth conference trip
- Tim Mason will give detailed report on parish surveys in November
- Lisa Swovick will take over Parish Council bulletin article for Betsy Swovick

Pillars Discussion – Faith Formation: Mary Jo DiNoto, Anita Wagner

- First point on vision statement under Faith Formation regarding programs for young adult, youth and children;
- Youth Group meets two times a month – 70 youth - one gathering for Jr. High and one gathering for Sr. High – lessons are shared differently for each age group; once a month, both groups come together to share, play

- basketball – encourages Jr. High youth (6,7,8th grade) to want to move up to Sr. High (9-12th grade)
- Youth Group activities: overnight lock-in for youth going to NCYC; pasta dinner, community service including baskets for Thanksgiving, sorting angel tree gifts for Christmas, working in yards for elderly parishioners in spring and fall, Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday and Sr High Retreat – January 2007 retreat held in Penn Yan with 35 attendees
 - Two years ago, 1 youth went to conference in Atlanta – this year 14 youth attending; Mary Jo working with Holy Trinity and St. Paul's to combine youth groups for activities – still working on Holy Spirit (they do not have full-time youth minister); working to build young adult program to help run youth program
 - Youth Group needs parent volunteers, especially on retreats for small group discussions – if kids do not want their parents to come on retreat, Mary Jo cannot invite so needs other parents; has some help from people with children not in youth group, but also have to consider who best relates to kids
 - Youth have been discussing how to pray better – not just prayers but also talking to Jesus – and working on own spirituality; prefer word “lifelong” so can address youth spirituality into young adulthood and beyond; young adults difficult to keep involved because of college and jobs; needing more lifelong formation programs is universal problem in most parishes; not always good attendance no matter how many programs are offered
 - Anita Wagner taking over all Sacramental Prep programs – does catechesis for children on retreat, but also includes things geared for parents; religious education program needs substitute teachers; children learning how to pray from the heart, as opposed to reciting rote prayers; program has 360 children – 40 less than last year; 40 catechists – takes lot of volunteers to run program; some need for non-Catholic parents looking for catechesis for children
 - Comparing numbers shows drop of children in program after First Communion; 13 children that made First Communion last year did not return; 14 did not return after First Reconciliation; sports taking priority right now; faith formation and school families not staying involved; started pilot kindergarten program to bring children into religious ed at earlier age

Closing Prayer: Chris Mauro

- Prayers for close friend of Fr. Hoan, who lost a daughter this week in Washington, DC
- Prayers for Dick Mahaney and family - wife Mary passed this morning – very long illness – funeral Thursday 10 am – Bishop Clark presiding

Respectfully submitted: Bernadette Rall