

Minutes
St. Rita Parish Pastoral Council
November 19, 2007

Attendees:

Fr. Chuck Latus	Chris Mauro	Barb Tatanus
Tom Bayer	Marti Mauro	Ann Tiberio
Paul Dangler	John O'Connor	Dick Wagner
Dottie DeLano	Bernadette Rall	Lauren Wynne
Drew Desmarais	Jim Sauer	
Fr. Hoan Dinh	Elisabeth Swovick	

Excused:

Rich Engel	John McDermott	Sr. Katherine Ann Rappl
Lisa Swovick		

Opening Prayer: Bernadette Rall

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 June minutes: Minutes were approved as written

Confirmation of October minutes: Minutes were approved with one small change

Stewardship/CMA Update:

- Concern over responses to people showing interest in committees through survey; still sorting, but will be contacting volunteers soon
- Great response to commitment program, considering first year; will clarify overage in collections in bulletin – being used to reduce budget deficit
- CMA – about \$70,000 committed out of \$97,000 goal; number of givers close to last year at this time; Diocese ahead of last year – they were concerned program would dwindle each year, which is why parishes have to make up difference if goal not met
- Paul Dangler submitted a report from the Finance Committee by e-mail to Council

Pastor's Report:

- Thanksgiving Eve mass with Webster Penfield parishes at St. Rita's; felt St. Rita's could accommodate – all 4 pastors, Fr. Hoan, Deacon John and deacon from St. Paul's to participate; Chris leading music and invited other parish music groups to participate; council members should listen for comments to evaluate whether a success or not

- Catholic Courier insert in yesterday's bulletin featured St. Rita School on front cover; article in Democrat & Chronicle quoted Sr. Katherine Ann regarding enrollment numbers at the school
- Bishop Clark asked task force to look at schools – serious financial concerns; tight time frame – wants report by late January which will be difficult; enrollment has dropped 45% in 10 years and our Diocesan tuition is one of highest in country; 24 schools in Monroe County
- Tuition is about \$4,050/year – changes were made based on 1. parish support not to exceed 35-40%; 2. tuition; 3. development & fundraising (has not happened); Five Wegmans schools are way down; St. Rita ranked 3rd largest

Webster Post Article discussion:

- The Council preread an article from the Webster Post where the author discussed not feeling the need to attend church to find God; author talks about conversation about spirituality at the Public Market with a stranger – ironic that he claims does not need community, but can discuss spirituality with a stranger
- Combination of appreciation of nature, with community at church, is ideal situation; unfortunately, current culture sees church as duty or commitment, rather than the desire to be closer to God
- Technology has created less human contact, which results in lost sense of community; important to see God in others and church can do that
- Same attitude regarding religious education or attendance in Catholic schools – children making sacraments, but not attending weekly mass; difficult to watch families work around their sports schedules, but not make the effort to work around church schedule
- Important that we all understand the importance of the Eucharist, before we can appreciate it; needs to be more opportunities to discuss spirituality outside of mass; tough because mass does not lend to interacting with others
- As with author, people still search but in individualistic manner and this is not Christian tradition; important to focus on sacraments, Gospel, and service to others; should feel like it is a privilege to belong to the Catholic Church, not just a commitment
- Author does seem to have hunger for spirituality, but way he views situation is different than we are used to
- Fr. Chuck distributed an article from the November 22nd edition of *Origins* (a document published weekly by the Pope) for Council to read if they are interested in pursuing this idea further

Closing Prayer: John O'Connor