

**Minutes**  
**St. Rita Parish Pastoral Council**  
**April 28, 2008**

**Attendees:**

Fr. Chuck Latus	Drew Desmarais	Ann Tiberio
Sr. Katherine Ann	Marti Mauro	Dick Wagner
Tom Bayer	John O'Connor	Lauren Wynne
Paul Dangler	Lisa Swovick	
Dottie DeLano	Barb Tatanus	

**Excused:**

Fr. Hoan Dinh	Rich Engel	Chris Mauro	John McDermott
Bernadette Rall	Jim Sauer	Betsy Swovick	

**Opening Prayer:** Dick Wagner

**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 March minutes:** Minutes were approved with no changes

**Pillar – Evangelization Discussion:**

- Preread – “Lost Sheep” – we are largest denomination, but number of Catholics decreasing; huge issue
- Why are these things happening? How do we invite people back into church community? Fr. Chuck believes we may need task force to help get people back into church – group needed to focus on evangelization
- Open conversation on issue: people’s schedules too tight for church – not a priority; try to bring in people not connected to church right now; people have become affluent and don’t feel need for God anymore; want instant gratification – not finding at Catholic mass; people will come when a disaster;
- Need to improve attendance of people who come just occasionally; need to learn value of Eucharist – maybe a prayer group to encourage people to attend church; maybe a newsletter to communicate with people not attending church; church needs to be more fulfilling instead of routine; need to be proactive when inviting people to church
- Catholic Church very diverse; St. Rita’s very welcoming community – youth group shows importance of church – need to get more youth involved; Fr. Chuck amazed by number of people at church, including young families – hunger for spirituality and interest in bible study; working on making our website more exciting

### **Report on Catholic Schools:**

- 87 new kids coming to St. Rita's – 77 from Holy Trinity; some classes more filled than others – K-6 has 370 students – filling classes already have and will have teacher's aides; 5<sup>th</sup> grade has 31 students; space is an issue; good Middle States Accreditation visit
- Fr. Chuck attended meeting of pastors with school still open – committee formed to meet with Diocese to see how issues will be handled; everyone has to work together

### **Miscellaneous:**

- Finance Committee under control
- Diocese changing approach to insurance – Self Insurance Program – will be based on losses – potential to reduce insurance from \$81,000 to \$36,000 per year; should see significant savings, but will mean higher deductible
- Land Sale – Fr. Chuck signing for consent of property sale – final sale \$102,880 for land; some expenses - should be closed by end of fiscal year
- Parish Council nominees – 27 men, 25 women and 6 youth; interest meeting on Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm – council members needed to attend meeting and give input

**Next Meeting:** May 19, 2008

Respectfully Submitted by: Bernadette Rall (notes taken by Barb Tatanus)