

Minutes
St. Rita Parish Pastoral Council
September 15, 2008

Attendees:

Fr. Chuck Latus	Drew Desmarais	John O'Connor
Sr. Katherine Ann	Fr. Hoan Dinh	Drew Pawluk
Kathleen Anne	Rich Engel	Ann Tiberio
Tom Bayer	Will Goodness	Dick Wagner
Dottie DeLano	John McDermott	

Excused:

Joseph Holleran	Jim Sauer	Betsy Swovick	Lisa Swovick
Barb Tatanus			

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.*

Confirmation of June minutes: Minutes were approved

Introductions: Parish Council members introduced themselves and gave hopes for future meetings.

- Hope to have more open discussion and sharing of ideas; additional discussion on relevant items related to spirituality of parish and of spiritual lives of Council members
- Check vision of pillars and discuss implementation for future; communicate more with parish so better understanding of Council's job
- Learn more about how Council communicates with committees; learn how parish is run; spread word about activities with youth group; have Council members feel comfortable speaking during meetings

Chairman Update: John O'Connor

- Each member received packet of materials, including tonight's agenda, June minutes, June Evaluation Breakdown, Buddy List, and the agenda process; use form to submit agenda suggestions for coming year

Constitution Update: John O'Connor

- Constitution covers membership, purpose, roles, etc.; read Constitution notes for next meeting and be prepared to discuss changes

Bible Study: Fr. Hoan

- See attached Bible Study program; two groups being formed – one on Wednesdays and one on Thursdays – meet two times a month; series well regarded across country – start Bible Study small and grow from there
- Introduction to the Bible for Fall program; Mark's gospel, including study guide and commentary for Spring program; will include daily personal study and Scripture prereads; program is to see how scripture can be broken open – spiritual sharing as opposed to academic
- At end of each session, a DVD is played to recap evening and help prepare for next session; 10 facilitators so far –will work in teams of two; not a program by a specific leader, but group sharing
- New American Bibles will be ordered – one for each family in the parish – bible will be blessed at church; still deciding which children's bible to be distributed; youth leaders working on bible study for youth group – will alternate regular program with bible study

Finance Committee: Fr. Chuck

- Chaired by Paul Dangler this year; there are 5-6 new members – committee split into smaller committees for the budget, monthly statement and investments; much discussion about funds – restricted fund for expansion and reserved fund from sale of land for capital projects
- Paul working with school and attended Diocesan meetings to understand how expenses are handled; Diocese wants to revert to a flat rate per square foot per school – many questions about this method, so still being discussed; St. Rita's has most students it has ever had – 429 including pre-k; only school for Webster cluster
- Will alternate job of finance chair each year; try to get information out ahead of time and with accuracy; try to budget when expenses fall, but billing is sometimes inconsistent each year; budget is in the black – some money set aside for capital funds, while still having conservative budget due to economy
- Stewardship commitments begins Sunday – DVD to be shown and presentation by Fr. Chuck – CMA to be built into commitment
- Fr. Chuck received e-mail from Director of Stewardship in Brisbane, Australia asking to meet regarding our stewardship process; he will be at mass on October 19th and then breakfast with members of the stewardship committee

School Report: Sr. Katherine Ann

- 75 new children this year from Trinity – another 20 from local public, Catholic and out of town schools – 376 children – K-6 and 429 with pre-k program; four classes with 30 children, 1 class with 29, smallest class has 24 children; parents and teachers very supportive; 5 aides and teachers came from closed schools

- Sister spoke with parent who is psychologist at Strong – raised with a Catholic education – sometimes feels like a lonely thinker because of surroundings at Strong – abortions being done, etc.
- St. Rita Marathon – October 4th

Pastor's Report: Fr. Chuck

- Building and Grounds Committee looking at long range building needs for church and school (roof, plumbing, etc); trying to project repairs instead of patching when needed
- One of the Pillars stresses better communication with parish – have new website committee – Steve Kwiatkowski, Linda Barbeau and Jerry Lupien; working to expand parishioner e-mails for on-line bulletin; looking into paying by credit card online
- Catholic Courier has two part article – Faithful Citizenship – St. Rita's will purchase article in pamphlet form – will also be available online

Roundtable Discussion:

- Knights of Columbus Report – celebrating 50th year for Trinity Council, which includes St. Rita's, St. Paul's, Holy Trinity and St. Mary of the Lake; events at all churches – mass at St. Rita's on October 11th at 5 pm – all participants in mass are Council members or family of members; will also be membership drive after mass
- Youth Group – large turnout for first joint meeting of Juniors and Seniors – hope is that younger children will want to keep coming when they are Seniors; Juniors and Seniors also meet once a month separately; October 25th – Pasta dinner and World Youth celebration during 5 pm mass
- Dottie reported there is a Sedality meeting this week with a potluck dinner and Chinese auction; also works at school and new year is off to smooth start – Sr Katherine Ann took pictures of new children in school, from closed schools, and hung them in the school to welcome them to St. Rita's
- Bible Study – excitement over this new program; question about whether they would be offered during day, at some point – not enough staff for daytime programs, but Fr. Hoan will work on for future
- With new website in place, question arose about getting information from website for those people who do not have a computer; suggested we launch a ministry of youth to help parishioners either learn how to access website or just copy specific items; youth leaders agreed it was a good idea and will work with John O'Connor to see if we can institute program
- Nocturnal Adoration Society – 76th year in Rochester – 12 centers in Diocese – one hour once per month at Christ the King; involves spiritual prayers, private meditation and benedictions
- Suggestion box – will try to reinstitute this year
- Council has a commitment to revisit expansion of church – study was done and we have models, but can choose which changes to institute; PIF money is designated to expansion; biggest concern – number of priests for cluster will decrease, so may have to decrease number of masses, which

will fill church; St. Paul's (1,700 households) has gone to 3 masses – St. Rita's cannot reduce number of masses due to parishioners totaling 7,700, (2500 households); Council needs to start thinking about possibilities for future meetings

Closing Prayer: Will Goodness

Next Meeting: October 20, 2008

Respectfully Submitted by: Bernadette Rall (on behalf of Barb Tatanus)