

St. Rita Parish Pastoral Council
Tuesday, October 11
Cascia Hall East Meeting Room

Members in attendance: Fr. Michael, Ruth Adamczyk, Marilyn Butler, Dave Eberle, Ellie Hammond, Bill Greinke, Bob Mitchell, Pat Rossman and Jean Weaver. Also, in attendance were Trustees Dennis Collins and Sharon Gierahn.

Excused: Myra Fox

The opening prayer and lighting of the Christ Candle was led by Father Michael at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Dennis Collins to accept the September 13, 2022 minutes as read and it was seconded by Marilyn Butler.

Pastor's Report:

LOA Campaign -- Fr. Michael told us that the Capital Campaign is going very well. As of today, we are at 40% of our goal with \$243k. Marilyn, who has been attending the LOA meetings, and Whitney Madeen, from the Archdiocese, are looking for volunteers from the PPC to do some follow-up phone calls to letters that will be going out shortly. These calls are intended to insure that the letters have been received the letter and to encourage participation in the campaign. The calls will be made from the end of October to mid-November and callers will be provided with a script There were a few members that will get back to Marilyn as they have to check their calendars.

Building and Grounds -- The Subcommittee would like to purchase a computer program to organize and track maintenance on all parish assests. It will keep track of when maintenance is needed on any of our equipment or fixes that need to be done. Fr. will do some checking with the Archdioceses to see what other parishes are using and to find out which one would fit us the best. Kevin Stachowiak will be responsible for keeping the maintenance program up-to-date. After Father does the research on this, he will take it to the PFC for approval. Jean stated that Suzanne proposed a computer program last year that would could do this for us. Sharon asked Father if anyone is taking care of the water leak in the church by where the choir sits. It might be a simple fix that Kevin can handle or we might have to call in company to repair.

Parish/School Communication -- Father did have a Town Hall meeting with the school parents (14 people attended composed of school staff & admin and 6 parents). He started the meeting with a bit of history of the school and how things changed when Siena took over; minimizing the parish's connection with the school. Many issues were spoken about such as mass every Thursday, Advent and Lenten reconciliation, Father visiting the classrooms. Father turned the meeting over to the parents to see what they were thinking of as to improving the situation. The parents brought up that they did not like how Father asked the kids at the weekday mass to stand if they attended mass over the weekend. The parents felt that this embarrassed the children. Being part of the community is a two-way street involving attending mass, participation in the church festival, and other parish activities. Dennis mentioned that the timing of the meeting was brought up to him. That the meeting was scheduled to start at 5:00p and this is when people are just getting out of work. The school had chosen the time to start this meeting. Bill brought up offered the perspective that the

parent's choice to send their children to St Rita's had little to do with evangelism and more with a feeling of better security and educational achievement than with attending a public school. A long discussion followed regarding: how do we improve parish/school relations; evangelization: being catholic; how the pandemic has affected our lives; and how the Sienna project is only in its 5th year of existence.

Ruth Adamczyk commented that she was contacted by Zack Pridoux, President of the Royal Parent School Association, to see if she would like to join their Google Meet meeting last Wednesday. She was included in the email to all families with the meeting information. There were about 60 families invited but only 4 families attended the virtual meeting. One the items discussed was how to get get more people involved in the RPSA. There are 217 kids in the school and they will be participating in the Siena Walk which has the goal of raising \$15k. This money would help with after school activities, teacher appreciation and so on.

During this discussion, Father read a news account he had received regarding the Madison Archdiocese's newly announced plan for consolidation.

Their plan calls for consolidating the current 102 parishes down to 30. The reasons for doing this include: declining attendance at mass, declining members of parishes, declining financial support, and the lower number of priests available. They want this accomplished by 2024. It was suggested that they will end up having the same issue as we regarding what to do with the older buildings.

Cascia Hall Update: Bill reported that the Parish Leadership Group, composed of Father, Bill (PPC), Kevin McCabe (PFC), Sharon and Dennis (Trustees), has met twice since the past PPC meeting to discuss and form a special committee to review all options for Cascia Hall. The name of the committee is the "*Cascia Hall Investigative Special Committee*" (CHISC) and it will be chaired by Myra Fox. Several parish members had been considered but a consensus of the group decided on Myra as having the demonstrated talents to fill and lead this important committee. Myra, who was unable to attend tonight's meeting, is said to be formulating a plan of action and will soon be seeking committee members of specific talents and contacts to undertake that plan. One task will be to get revised quotes for bringing the building up to code or for demolition since the numbers we have now are 2-4 years old. The CHISC will report to the PPC and has as its purpose to find reasonable options for the future of the building and of means to achieve that end. It is to be investigative and collect information with no negotiative or contractual authority, nor the ability to expend funds. Myra has been advised by the Leadership Group that expectations hope for a report of findings next Spring, but that they realize that the many variables involved may call for an extended period of time to complete the task and be able to make recommendations.

Liaison Assignments: Myra will be stepping down from Human Concerns and Jean Weaver will be this year's liaison. Bob Mitchell will continue to go with the PFC meetings. Dave will be on Building and Grounds.

Liaison Reports: Information was sent out prior to this meeting from Human Concerns regarding the presentation that will be held on Sunday, Nov 6th: Catholic Social Teaching: Dignity of Life and the Human Person. Tia Westhoff, Associate Director of Human Life and Social Concern. Deanery minutes were handed out and Pat briefly went through them with the members and noting that Project Rachel has been reinstated with information to be put in the kiosk. Stewardship will be sending out the annual pledge cards and will have an Advent Breakfast with St. Nick. Father

handed out the Prayer & Worship Commission minutes. The need to change the placement of the information kiosk in the narthex entrance to make it accessible on all 4 sides was discussed.

Committee Presentations in November: Stewardship & Prayer & Worship are scheduled for their annual presentations to the PPC in November. Pat has sent emails to Debbie Wollert (Stewardship) and Jessica Knierim (Prayer & Worship) but hasn't as yet heard back. She will follow-up this weekend.

Upcoming PPC Dates:

Tuesday, November 8, 2022
Tuesday, December 13, 2022
Tuesday, January 10, 2023

The closing prayer was led by Father Michael at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Rossman
Secretary
St. Rita Parish - Parish Pastoral Council