

St. Rita Parish Pastoral Council
Tuesday, May 2, 2023
Church Narthex

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

Not in attendance: Ruth Adamczyk and Dave Eberle

The opening prayer was led by Father Michael at 7:00 p.m.

Guests: Deacon Greg and Debbie Sandonato

Stewardship Presentation: Chairman, Debbie Sandonato came to our meeting to update the Council on the activities for the last year on the Stewardship Cmte. They have created a “Welcome Bag” to be given to all new members of SR. This will include many items such as dinner certificates for the following events: Lenten fish fry, festival fish fry, festival chicken dinner and the Advent breakfast. They have also revised the registration form. A complete list of their ongoing goals and a packet of the previous year’s committee minutes are attached.

Human Concerns Presentation: Chairman Deacon Greg also attended our meeting to update the Council on the activities for the last year on Human Concerns Cmte. Amy Bigna is the Vice Chair and Recorder volunteers at each meeting to take notes. They meet 6 times a year online. This Cmte supports 16 different sub committees that meet at different times during the year. Please see the attached presentation for the highlights for the 2023/2022.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Marilyn Butler to accept the April 14, 2023 minutes as read and it was seconded by Myra Fox.

Pastor’s Report:

Town Hall Mtg: Fr. and Myra gave us the highlights from the Town Hall meeting held on April 30th regarding Cascia Hall. The meeting went well and many people have volunteered to assist on one of the many committees regarding this huge endeavor. The 13 new volunteers signed up for the remodeling or the razing committee but no one signed-up for the selling of the property. Myra is hopeful to have some results by the end of the year. An architect that was a member at SR a number of years ago (his mother still a member at SR), he lives in Illinois but is up here a couple times a month and is interested in helping from afar. He did take a tour of the Cascia Hall and the first thing he mentioned was the tuck pointing that is in need of repair. Dan Schrank requested that this presentation be put on the TV in the narthex and also, share with the school.

Planning Committee: One of the items discussed was a long-term plan and the creation of a vision for this cmte. Father feels that we are a community of faith and we are an Easter people. We are in a transitional time within our parish as people are remembering masses in the gym because the old church wasn’t big enough to hold all the parishioners. We built a new church and now we must look at on what do we do with Cascia Hall and the monastery?

Siena School:

Fr. will be meeting with Siena School on May 17th with Brenda White, President and Craig Savage, CFO there will be a discussion on the subsidy rate for St. Rita. We are in a deficit budget and we need to have our rate lowered to 10% and nothing more. Dr. Susan Savaglio-Jarvis has been named Brenda White's replacement as President of the Siena School System. We are hoping that a better sense of community will start developing. A discussion followed regarding this announcement.

When we had the town hall meeting with the school parents 9 parents and 14 staff members attended this meeting. Fr. ask the question "what do you expect from the parish"? They would like Fr. to have lunch with kids and go out on the playground with them. Fr. is unwilling to do this since all of the sex abuse scandal started. He does not want to be put at risk. Father did tell them we need to build a bridge – how can we build community between the school and the parish. After the meeting, one of the school parents wrote on Facebook that the church as failed to create s sense community. The ball is now in their court.

Liaison Committee Reports:

PFC: There was a discussion regarding Father's position with Siena and the PFC's stance. It was also stated that this is Father's decision and the PFC will work on what develops.

The budget for the upcoming fiscal year was discussed in great detail. It was agreed upon to endorse this budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Human Concerns: They will meet tomorrow. They will be reviewing the social justice talks and what would be the possibilities for future speakers. The speakers have been very good to date.

Formation/School: Ruth was not able to attend but sent in a report regarding the last school meeting. I have listed the upcoming dates faith formation events: May 13th, family night after the 4:45 mass and rosary will be said at the shrine; May 21st social justice speaker Rick Sosa (child care will be provided); May 31st Feast of the Annunciation, distribution of meals to expectant mothers; vacation bible will be starting right after school let's out for the summer; June 19-23 Racine Summer Service Camp, places to be served are HALO, Hospitality Center and the food pantry – the neighborhood work will be hosted by St. Richard's; July 11-16 there is a mission trip scheduled to go to Fond du Lac for the high school kids only. Dan Schrank also attended the meeting and mentioned that the festival raffle tickets will be sent to the school for distribution along with a letter outlining the festival and the reason that the dates are changing from August to June. Dr. Sue is taking Brenda White's place as President of the Siena School System. The parents are concerned about her replacement and that one should be hired so the new principal can get acclimated to the school and parent groups. The parents group purchased new bleachers for the gym, a St. Rita canopy for field trips and put money towards activities and treats for Fiesta St. Rita. They are still waiting for monies from the Catholic Soles Walk and Teacher Appreciation week is May 1-5.

Festival Report: The festival will be moving to June next year. Hopefully, volunteerism will go up and our building will have more availability for use.

Planning Cmte: The vision that Father spoke about earlier is a very important step that we are undertaking. The 3-5 year plan in mind, the survey will assist the committee in fulfilling the plan. We discussed multiple surveys instead of having one large one. We are would like to have the

survey completed online and we will be sent out via mail. No timetable has been set but were looking at fall for the first survey.

PPC Nominations: We had 14 nominations that Dennis and I will contact to see who would like to attend the discernment meeting. We will offer the week of the May 21st and May 28th on what days would work out

Deanery Meeting: Ruth and I attended and reported what a great job our Stewardship Committee is doing with the welcoming of new members. This committee provides them a personal welcome and introduction to our parish community. We also mentioned that our Human Concerns group is doing a wonderful job with the social justice speakers at our church. There was a discussion regarding evangelization as all parishes have the same problem as us. Low attendance at mass. One of the points discussed was to have more upbeat music to draw the younger people in. One of the other representatives from another parish brought up the topic of Siena School. It seems like all parishes have the same issues as us. No communication from school to the parish, no transparency, none of the priests go to the schools, should the principals be catholic; not happy with the Siena School works, it's their way or the highway.

Eucharistic Revival: This will be held on Saturday, June 10, 2023 at the Mary Mother of the Church Pastoral Center, 3501 S. Lake Drive, St. Francis, WI. For more information, please go to the Archdiocesan website.

Upcoming PPC Dates:

Tuesday, June 13, 2023
Tuesday, July 11, 2023
No meeting in August
Tuesday, September 12, 2023

The closing prayer was led by Father Michael at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Rossman
Secretary
St. Rita Parish - Parish Pastoral Council