

St. Rita Parish Pastoral Council
Tuesday, June 13, 2023
Church Narthex

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

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

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Dave Eberle to accept the May 2, 2023 minutes as read and it was seconded by Myra Fox.

PPC Members: Bill said a few fond words to both Marilyn Butler and Ruth Adamczyk for their years of service. Bill then introduced the 2 new members: Anna Marie Smetana and Mark Schmitz and returning member Jean Weaver and welcome aboard. At that time, Ruth and Marilyn gave their PPC manuals to Anne Marie & Mark along with their badges. Pat gave each of the new members a listing of available videos from the Archdioceses that explains the PPC and what we do. Pat also gave them the SR ministry listing for them to choose what Committee they would like to be a liaison with and to submit a picture and bio no later than the September PPC meeting. Pat will then update the PPC boards in the Narthex.

Hostile Intruder/Severe Storm/Fire Alarm: Dan Shrank provided an update on the planning he has led and compiled regarding these three emergency situations. The Caledonia Police are happy with the plan we have regarding a hostile intruder so far. The document is to be considered a “live” document as it will be changing as time moves on. The Fire Marshall on the other hand would like some more time to review and to visit SR again. As he remembers, there could be an exit strategy from the basement of the church during a storm but there is a deep step and he would like additional steps added for safety. For the festival we will not have to worry about the fire plan. When reviewing the severe storm plan he would like the Racine Sheriff, Caledonia Police and Fire in attendance. Regarding the hostile intruder the school, church and Casica Hall would be used as safe locations. Dan is currently leading this process and the plan will have a listing of the SR people that are aware of the process to help the parishioners. It was stressed that “silence” should be reinforced when any plan is executed during an emergency. Bill suggested when the plans are ready, they should be distributed in some form to the parish. Bob suggested that a video be created and shown during mass regarding all the hostile intruder/severe weather/fire plans as to what parishioners should expect to happen and what actions they should take to evacuate the building or take cover/shelter.

Festival Update: Dan Schrank (Director), Diane Lerro (Volunteer website manager, along with Marilyn Butler) and Pam Dean (Finance) attended our meeting to update us regarding next year’s festival. The Festival Committee would like to move the festival to June of next year and would like some clarity on who should be giving their approval? The Finance Council, PPC, trustees? Fr. said yes, that all of those mentioned should be included in the approval process as this is a community and we all have a part to play in this key parish-wide event. Dan reassured Father and the PPC that this decision was not made lightly. Much thought has gone into this for the last couple of years:

- The consideration of moving the date began a few years ago when it was noticed that the average age of the festival committee was about 70 yrs. of age. We knew we must recruit younger members for the future. When the Comte. tried to recruit family members of the school they said no because the dates are right before school starts and it makes it difficult for them to volunteer. The festival volunteers must have the kitchen, freezer and refrigerator all cleaned out by early morning on Monday so it's ready for the school week which starts on Tuesday. The school association suggested that if we would like the families to participate, think of moving it to when school gets out in June. The heat and humidity also play a factor as it is harder on the volunteers when you're setting up and working through the weather in August. A change of date would also allow the Festival Committee to have the summer off instead of planning and working on festival arrangements all summer.
- One of the biggest festivals in SE Wisconsin was St. Roman's, held in June and always successful. St. Roman's, and a number of other parishes, no longer have festivals as they did not get the younger families involved and workers & institutional knowledge disappeared. By moving the date, we will have a better opportunity to get the involvement of the younger parishioners and set the opportunity for passing the knowledge & experience of the older, long-time Comte. members
- Additional consideration has been that the current dates are at the same time as the Kenosha County Fair and Irish Fest in Milwaukee. Our profit margin ranges anywhere \$50-\$60k and cannot grow due to the competition with these other festivals. The Committees goal is to see a profit of in excess \$100k. Dan is involved in the CFC (Council for Festival Committees) and they recommend to new members not to go up against Summerfest, state fair, and county fairs. Also, our current carnival ride vendor is very difficult to work with. We did not have amusement rides in 2021 and we had a profit of \$15k. Our current amusement ride company owner is getting ready to retire and there are currently no other vendors are available the 3rd week of August. We have checked all over and found that we are able to get the best carnival ride company, Rainbow Amusement, in June for June of 2024. They do not touch a festival unless they can make \$100k. They have reviewed our situation and have stated that they feel strongly that they can hit their mark. They will require a bit more space, so adjustments to parking will need to be made. The current vendor provides 8 rides geared to smaller children, while new vendor would provide 18 rides which cater to teenagers as well as small children. While might not hit the projected goal at first, the potential is there. We must advertise the change of date to vendors as early as possible.

Dan reported that the Committee did a survey of the SR school families to assess their support of a date change. Results were: 32 yes, 13 no, and 2 indifferent. The Festival Cmte surveyed itself; finding: 1 no; 2 indifferent; the majority saying yes. Dan suggested that we should survey the parish. A lengthy discussion followed on logistics and other topics.

Dan concluded by pointing out that while our festival does have its issues, it is the largest source of income on an annual basis to offset capital and ministerial expenses of the parish.

Considering that: with the need to complete close-out & cleanup overnight, that with the early start date of the school year for college, high school and elementary starting the Tuesday after the festival, and the evident wear & tear and aging of the current Comte. members and the need to fi involve younger school families/parishioners; Moving the dates is the logical way to go.

Since some people do not want to see it moved, the Festival Cmte is looking for support from the PPC to move forward with the change. Bill stated that the PPC does things by discernment not voting. So, the question was asked: "Is there anyone here at this meeting that would not support this change?" No one responded. Bill thanked Dan and the Comte. for their dedication and continued commitment to see retention & growth of the festival in the years ahead. He also suggested that, while the Comte is always welcome to address the PPC, the Comte carry their message to the PFC which they report in the structure of the parish organization and obtain their direction and approval. That through our liaison with the PFC we will be kept abreast of decisions & progress, and we'll offer assistance as may be needed.

Pastor's Report: The only item to report on is that a proxy has been submitted to the Archdiocese for the subsidy report. A cover letter was provided by the Siena School System and Father did not use it and instead wrote his own cover letter for the proxy. Fr. encourage the dioceses to accept a 10% rate instead of the 15% Siena is asking for. Father is waiting for a response from the Archdioceses. If they accept the 10% rate, Father will sign the subsidy agreement. If they still want us to pay the 15%, he will not sign the agreement and we will pay 10%. A discussion followed indicating general support of Father's decision in this regard. In fact, there was expressed a preference to pay nothing until we gain the ear of the Archbishop and can address Siena's ability to impose financial obligations on a parish regardless of their financial situation. Ours being that we continue to operate in a deficit, which is directly affected by the Siena imposed subsidy.

CHISC Report: The work groups are actively pursuing their areas and will be meeting at the end of the month to report on any discovery's they have found. The one work group regarding the remodeling of Cascia Hall has a number of possibilities and those will be discussed and trimmed down at the June 28th meeting. The groups are: remodeling, razing the hall, and sale of the property in portion or whole. The remodel group are looking at the removal of the asbestos, this part will have to be done across the board for any work group to move ahead.

Annual Calendar: The Calendar for FY23-24 will be discussed. At the July meeting we will be choosing committee & deanery liaisons and electing the Chairperson, Vice-Chair and Secretary for the next year. Also, we will be selecting a date in September for the PPC members to attend a mass for our annual blessing. The roster will be updated and distributed to the PFC, PPC, Suzanne and Kathi.

Planning Committee: Bill stated that the next meeting will be tomorrow night. We are starting a draft of a Strategic 3-year plan for the parish. We are also discussing the use of quarterly surveys of specific audiences within the parish to maintain and adjust short & long-term planning. This discussion will coincide with the development of the 3-year plan. This committee will be losing 2 people; Ruth as she is retiring from the PPC and Pat who is resigning as she has much to do with festival. We will be seeking representation from the PFC and the staff in order to have a broader source of input. Amy Bigna continues to help with the surveying effort.

Liaison Reports:

- **Stewardship:** Ellie Hammond reported that last month the Communication Subcommittee contacted each of the ministries for pictures showing what they do for use in various parish media outputs. The Welcoming subcommittee met with the 2 new parish member families and gave them the goodie bag from SR and took their picture for the bulletin.

- **Faith Formation:** Ruth reported the Rosary was said on May 13th outside and attend by many families, it is now the concern for the older members that the rosary be said in front of the statue on the SR boulevard for easier access instead of the shrine; VBS had over 40 kids signed -up for this year. She has about \$800.00 dollars in supplies needed and people have been very generous and now Rachel is down to only \$200.00 needed. Meals were delivered to new and expectant mothers on May 31st.
- **Human Concerns:** Jean reported on Sunday May 21st was their 3rd in the year regarding Social Teaching this time the focus was on the family and brought in Rick Sosa who is the youth coordinator in Pleasant Prairie for this discussion. The attendance was about the same as the last Social Teaching event. Tomorrow night is the Human Concerns meeting night. Human Concerns has many subcommittees some of them are: Advent Wreaths, Christmas in July, Health Ministry, Homebound Ministry, Infant and Pregnancy Loss, Knights of Columbus, Prayer Network, Prison and Jail Ministry, Sharing Sunday, St. Patrick's Community Meal, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Prayer Shawl, Bereavement Ministry, Respect for Life. The Respect for Life ministry is looking for leaders for this ministry. As Jean noted, this parish is an active parish.

Old/New Business: At the June PFC meeting there was discussion that the 2nd collection for Racine Interfaith Coalition should be more than writing-out a check. That there should be periodic reports, generated by the RIC, of their activities. The PFC has asked Deacon Greg and Bill Greinke to discuss this with the RIC; and ask them to give SR periodic reports on their activities. We understand that Deacon Greg has already had discussions with the RIC about this request. Bill will follow-up.

Upcoming PPC Dates:

Tuesday, July 11, 2023
 No meeting in August
 Tuesday, September 12, 2023
 Tuesday, October 10, 2023

The closing prayer was led by Father Michael at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Rossman
 Secretary
 St. Rita Parish - Parish Pastoral Council