

St. Rita Parish Pastoral Council
Thursday, October 12, 2023
Church Narthex

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

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

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Mark Schmitz to accept the September 12, 2023 minutes as read and it was seconded by Bob Mitchell.

Pastor's Report:

Father reported that he had received a new resume for the Business Administrator position. Her resume has been shared with the Parish Executive Committee and an interview will be arranged at the earliest availability of all.

Bill informed Father of confusion over whether or not the school will be allowed to hold graduation in the church this coming year. It has not been done in the church for the last 2 years, but some parishioners are under the impression that the situation has been addressed and permission given. Father stated that he would discuss the situation with the school principal.

Father reported that he has notified Siena to move ahead with the replacement of the flag pole for the school. They are looking at a telescoping model. As it turns out, there is a group from the parish who are very interested in contributing money to replace the flagpole. So, when Siena School submits an invoice to St. Rita for 11% of the total bill, per the Subsidy Agreement, it will be presented to this group of people for reimbursement. This will also include the cost of an ample supply of American & Papal flags.

Father reported on the meeting of the Siena Board of Trustees. Dennis was to attend that meeting to present suggested adjustments to the subsidy agreement. While Suzanne was still here, Dennis had requested through her for an opportunity to sit-down with the BOT. Suzanne sent an email to the President of Siena Schools regarding this request and received a reply from Sister Mary (President of the BOT) stating that she would contact Dennis and put him on the agenda for the next BOT. However, Dennis did not see any other communication and assumed he was to attend. At the September PPC and PFC meetings Dennis had announced that he had been invited to attend this meeting and outlined what he planned to say to the Board. However, when he arrived for the meeting he was told that the Board had considered his attendance and decided to not to hear from him. Consequently, Father stated, he presented the points of our concerns to the BOT, of which he is a member, and had no success to report back with. He went on to recall for the PPC that a few months ago St. Rita had sent a proxy to the Archdiocese regarding how we are looking at solving our problem with the subsidy percentage and our deficit budget. In our willingness to negotiate the subsidy we are willing to pay only 10% of our annual collections or nothing. After

about 8 weeks, the Archdiocese sent a reply email stating that they are washing their hands of this and it's a problem between St. Rita and Siena to work out. That is what Dennis intended to do at the Siena BOT meeting. Bill requested that our PFC Liaison, Dr. Bob Mitchell, inform the PFC of our full support regarding this issue of the subsidy agreement. Bob, suggested that we should have a lawyer, that does contract law, take a look at all the agreements and to give us some guidance. Father added that at the next PFC meeting the budget will be discussed and that special attention must be given to the annual Archdiocesan Assessment, which is also based on our collections, and expected to rise in each of the next fiscal years. He expressed concern that with both of these assessments our deficit budget situation will become even more drastic. Bill stated that the parish must be made aware of these issues and suggested that we begin by educating them on these assessments. *(Much discussion was made on these matters. What is recorded here is the gist of those discussions.)*

CHISC Update:

Myra stated that, of the three focus groups, the most active group is the Repurpose Group. They have been working with a group of developers to look at the facility and to see what options there might be to attract outside interest in repurposing Cacia Hall. The Razing Group has established the likelihood of the presence of asbestos throughout the building and is trying to get a viable cost estimate without having to commit funds to get such an estimate. The Selling Group is currently working under the impression the Archdiocese might want any sale to be an all or nothing proposition, but is proceeding to assess any & all possibilities. Myra emphasized that it has become apparent that the Archdioceses will have final say in any decision; and with that in mind, the investigations continue. She reported that the current plan is to have a recommendation for the PPC in the coming Spring. Myra and Anna Marie will be working together shortly to get an update out to the parish via the bulletin and our social media. A discussion followed.

Father reported that he was approached by Rachel Kroes, Director of Religious Education, concerning the possibility of moving the Religious Ed. Program out of the school and into the first floor of Cacia Hall. Much discussion followed; indicating that such a move would significantly impact our Usage Agreement with Siena Schools. While this would be a matter for the PFC, it might generate substantial savings. It would be a major move with several variables to consider.

Parish Safety and Security: Anna Marie reported that there will be a notice put in the bulletin that Committee is looking for volunteers that have a background in public safety, medical or security to assist in getting plans and procedures implemented for our parish events. Dave has a meeting scheduled with the Racine County Emergency Management director and deputy director on the parish grounds on November 10th. They will be taking a look at our facilities and grounds. Some of the equipment we will need are the AED packs & stop the bleed packs. Also, training will be scheduled on how to use this equipment. Dave is in the process of completing a 36-page House of Worship Security Self-Assessment provided by CSISA - Cyber Security & Infrastructure Security Agency and Dave will report the findings at future meetings. He is also checking on numbering for all the doors in our facility. Father mentioned that Siena has taken a photo of the school building (for security reasons) and even though we only use the school building during the

festival and Lenten fish fries we would also use the school as a rallying place if there was an emergency on SR property or at the church.

Planning Committee: Jean reported that the Planning survey will be sent out along with the Stewardship's annual Time/Talent/Treasury pledge form. This task was completed today so everything is in the mail. Also, survey's will be sent out via email. They are requesting that all adult members (18 or older) of the household complete the survey. The due/end date to return the survey is November 5th. The results should be tallied by our next PPC meeting.

This Committee will be looking at the Vision and Mission statements for St. Rita's to keep it up-to-date with our goals and strategic plan for the parish.

Liaison Reports:

- **Stewardship:** Ellie reported that they met today while they were stuffing envelopes. She was unable to attend so she cannot report on what was discussed.
- **Human Concerns:** Mark stated that they met last night, and they have a lot going on. They meet every 2 months and at this meeting they choose their officers for the upcoming year. They have two catholic teachings scheduled for 2024. The first one will be on January 7 and the topic will be Rights and Responsibilities and the next one will be held on March 3 and that topic will be the Dignity of the Rights of Workers. There was a ministry fair at St. Sebastian's that Susan Willing attended and it was very interesting. It took their Stewardship Committee over a year to put this all together. She brought back some information regarding some new suggested groups that they are looking at creating. Kringle Mingle will be starting up again at St. Rita and it was discussed about having different ministries come to this event and talk about their ministry and try to recruit new members. Dennis worked on a ministry fair here at St. Rita's about 15 years old and it had a good response. Bill pointed out that this topic has been discussed many times in the past several years and that nothing of substance has been done. It was suggested that we should organize a meeting of all the chairpersons from our ministries to discuss what their thoughts would be on improving ministry membership. Bill volunteered to look into this endeavor.
- **Prayer and Worship:** Sharon reported that they met on October 5th and set up the mass times through Advent and Christmas. November 1 is the Feast of All Saints and that mass will be at 6:30pm so everyone may attend. On November 2nd will be the mass of Remembrance and that will be at 7:00pm. Kathi has already started to send out invitations to that mass and the altar of Remembrance will be set up in the Narthex as it was the previous year. On Thanksgiving Day, November 23rd, mass will be at 9:00am. On Friday December 8th mass will be at 7:00pm for the Immaculate Conception (holy day of obligation). In order to meet your obligation to attend the 4th Sunday of Advent we will have the regular 4:45pm mass on Saturday which is the 23rd. Then on Sunday, December 24th there will be a 9:00am mass for the 4th Sunday in Advent, a 4:00pm and a 11:00pm mass for the Nativity of the Lord. On Monday, December 25th, Christmas Day there will

be a single mass at 9:00am mass and a 9:00am mass on Monday, January 1 for the Solemnity of Mary.

Sharon also brought up the issue of decorating the church for Christmas as it can not be decorated when the Advent mass is celebrated at 9:00a on December 24th. There will be a decorating party right after the mass so the church will be ready for Christmas mass at 4:00pm. The trees will be set up before the masses but they will not be lit.

Father added that Deacon Alex will be coming to St. Rita to assist at mass and will give homilies. Parishioners are being asked to evaluate him on his homilies. There are forms available in the narthex for this purpose.

Dave Eberle reported that before the 8:00a mass on Sunday a Rosary is said beginning at 7:30am. The participation is growing and he requested that Father mention this at mass on the weekends and hopefully the attendance will continue to grow.

- **Formation:** It is the 3rd week of Religious Education classes. A couple of weeks ago Rachel Kroes had a Family Fun Night right after the 4:45p mass. There were about 20 people attending the potluck dinner and then played bingo along with other activities.

Old/New Business:

Youth Representative on the PPC: Anna Marie had been tasked at the September PPC meeting to find a suitable candidate to serve as a Youth Representative on the PPC. Anna Marie reported finding an interested teen that meets the standards we would expect of a member of the Council. Mary Clare Weisensel and her family are active members of the parish. She is a senior in high school and has agreed to participate for the remainder of the school year which is the same as the Council term. Discussion was held about the purpose and function of the Youth Rep on the PPC which lead to a suggestion by Jean Weaver that Mary Clare might be better utilized on the Planning Committee, as she would have a larger role and potentially more pertinent impact there than on the Council proper. Further discussion pointed out that the many issues, some sensitive, discussed at PPC meetings might be outside of her interests and not require her attention. Ultimately Anna Marie made a motion to have a youth representative on the PPC with the duration of school year ending in June. Mark Schmitz 2nd the motion. A counter motion was made by Bill to have her join the Planning Committee with the option of bringing her to the PPC meetings at times. Father brought up that she was offered the position of a youth rep for the PPC and she has agreed to that position. A vote was called on Anna Marie's motion. The aye's have it with 1 nay recorded; motion carried. Anna Marie will invite Mary Clare to the PPC Nov meeting.

Karen Tuinstra: A bonus pay is to be discussed by the PFC to acknowledge Karen's extra efforts to facilitate certain administrative tasks for the parish in the absence of a Business Administrator. Sharon noted that Karen has requested a letter from Father stating her wage as she is temporarily responsible for writing paychecks and she doesn't want anyone to be able to come back and question her payments.

PPC Commission Presentation Update: The Stewardship Commission Chair will be presented in November and the Human Concerns Chair in December for their annual report to the PPC. Pat will follow-up on Prayer and Worship presenting in November and Religious Ed. in December.

PPC June Meeting: Typically, the PPC doesn't hold a meeting in the month of the Parish Festival. However, in 2024 the Festival is scheduled for June; a very busy month for the PPC. At the June meeting, among other agenda items, we welcome new members and discuss & approve the next year's budget. After further discussion it was determined that the calendar will stay as is with a June meeting being held and August remaining without a meeting.

Upcoming PPC Dates:

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

The closing prayer was led by Father Michael at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Rossman
Secretary
St. Rita Parish - Parish Pastoral Council