

## Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Attending:** Father Bill, Jim Sperry, Mark Zurlinden, Charlie Quehl, Bev Barnes, Paul Justice, Tim Geers, Donna Thompson

**Guest:** Mr. Salerno

Meeting Minute Approval – January and February minutes were approved.

### Pastoral Region Planning

The purpose of this planning exercise is for the long range good of the people of God. The plan is a collaborative effort between St. Bernadette and St. Thomas More. The next step is to get the approval from each parish's Pastoral Council. The group was reminded that this is a plan that could be overruled by the Archbishop or an incoming new pastor.

As the document was being reviewed, it was requested that "alternating" wording be incorporated as it relates to holy days or special masses. In addition, the "Facilities" portion of the plan is written differently for St. Thomas More than it is for St. Bernadette. Ultimately, we would want to identify each facilities available meeting spaces for collaborative meetings between the two parishes. It was also suggested that versioning and page numbering be added to the document for easier reference.

### Community Building Activities

Rock, Roll and Remember was a great success. Planning has already begun for a similar event next year. The next parish hike will likely be in May. The parish picnic for 2012 was also discussed and Donna Thompson will coordinate that event. Timing for the picnic will be at Donna's discretion.

### Christ Renews His Parish (CRHS)

St. Thomas More will provide a team of men and women to kick-start the weekend for St. Bernadette. The event will run Saturday morning through Sunday afternoon and will be held at St. Bernadette's Parish Center. This event has very little cost to the parish and anyone interested in additional information should go to St. Thomas More's website.

### School Billboard

The school will be advertising via a billboard at Rt. 125 and Huntsmans Trace (entrance to Quail Creek) in Amelia. It will have a picture of a group of current St. Bernadette School children and will run on this electronic billboard from April 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>. We are effectively sharing the space with other advertisements, so the plan is that our spot will run every 8 seconds. The cost is \$1900.00, which is a bargain as far as billboard advertising, goes.

### Parish Finances – Getting the Message Out

How do we get the parish to understand our financial situation? Various ideas were suggested such as printing expenses and income for the week in the bulletin each weekend. Have a member of the Finance Committee deliver a message that uses real figures to reflect the reality of what it costs to run a parish like St. Bernadette. Another thought was to write a letter to parishioners explaining the situation and mail it to their home addresses. Maybe a Town Hall meeting could be effective as it was during the Stievenard Trust situation. Provide a quarterly update as a bulletin insert instead of just getting a report once a year.

### School Report – Mr. Salerno

A committee is being set up to look into the feasibility of going even further with technology in the school. This is an attempt to keep pace with other schools on our side of town and not fall behind in technology. Guardian Angels school is already incorporating electronic devices besides computers and smart boards in the classrooms and St. Veronica will be at the same level in the next couple of years. St. Thomas More has already begun discussions. Infrastructure for future this technology will be necessary to move forward with WIFI capability. Currently, a committee at St. Bernadette is being gathered to look into this pressing topic.

Enrollment for the 2011-2012 school year is 138 students. The open house in January was very successful and the kindergarten class will be split into two classes of 20 right now. New families continue to call for tours of the school, so there is real hope that we will surpass our current enrollment numbers. Financially, Father Bill has instructed our Business Manager to hold the parish to no more than what it has paid for the school each of the last two years.

### Pastor's Corner

There is a monitor up in the gathering space, which was graciously donated by a parishioner. The new parish website is up and running now: [stbameliaparish.org](http://stbameliaparish.org). Stievenard Hall will be getting a bathroom and new kitchen area this summer. This is to accommodate all of the activity that the Hall sees throughout the year. Rock, Roll and Remember netted over \$10,000 this past February.

### Parish Voice

A parishioner has expressed concern over not having enough handicap parking spots during mass. Could all of the spots by the Parish Center parking lot be reserved for handicap parking during the weekend masses? It was suggested that maybe the ushers or greeters at mass observe the situation and report to Parish Council to understand the issue being brought to our attention.