

**NEW ST. MONICA PARISH MEETING
SEPTEMBER 18-19TH, 2010**

SATURDAY ATTENDANCE: 18* (*INCL. FACILITATION TEAM)

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE: 35*

INTRODUCTION: FATHER RAY FLEMING INTRODUCED NEW FACILITATION TEAM CANDIDATE MEG LUTE WHO LED THE OPENING PRAYER. JIM KERNAN ASSUMES EMERITUS STATUS OWING TO HIS MOVE FROM THE PARISH TO BE CLOSER TO HIS PLACE OF WORK. THE PARISH EXTENDS ITS DEEP APPRECIATION TO JIM FOR HIS DEVOTED SERVICE.

FR. RAY RELATED THAT THE PARISH WILL FOLLOW A POLICY OF KEEPING FOOD IN THE NARTHEX AREA ONLY DURING THE COMMUNITY TABLE REFRESHMENTS FOLLOWING MASS. THE INTENT IS TO PRESERVE THE SANCTITY AND SEPARATENESS OF THE WORSHIP SPACE.

MEETING PURPOSE:

- 1. YEAR IN REVIEW (COMMENTS WELCOME)**
- 2. ACTIVITIES CURRENTLY UNDERWAY OR PLANNED (DESCRIPTION)**
- 3. "IDEA TO REALITY" PROCESS FOR PARISHIONER-LED ACTIVITIES (A REVIEW)**

THIS IS THE FOURTH ANNUAL OPPORTUNITY TO CONDUCT A "YEAR IN REVIEW" FOR THE NEW ST. MONICA PARISH. A DOUBLE-SIDED SUMMARY SHEET WAS DISTRIBUTED AS A BULLETIN INSERT AND WEBSITE POSTING.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- A) LAST YEAR: 2 SEPARATE ALTERNATE WORSHIP SITES (AENON BAPTIST CHURCH & STAYBRIDGE) WHILE CHURCH RENOVATION TOOK PLACE. PARISHIONERS CHOSE THE LOCATIONS AND PLANNED THE ACTIVITIES TO MAINTAIN THE STEADY PACE OF PARISH LIFE.**
- B) MAINTAINED SENSE OF COMMUNITY WHILE "IN EXILE". NEW PARISHIONERS JOINED WHILE THE COORDINATION OF PARISH GROWTH CONTINUED .**
- C) MINISTRIES, SPECIAL LITURGICAL EVENTS AND ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPERATED SMOOTHLY WITH STAFF AND PARISHIONER LEADERSHIP.**
- D) SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION AND EUCHARISTIC VISITATION MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THE RENOVATION PERIOD.**
- E) SEAMLESS RETURN TO RENOVATED ST. MONICA CHURCH WITH THOROUGH PLANNING FOR OPENING CELEBRATIONS AND ALTAR DEDICATION.**

**"THIS IS WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON NOW":
(ADDITIONAL SIGN-UPS WELCOME)**

THE FOLLOWING INTEREST GROUPS ARE UNDERWAY :

1. SCHOOL BUILDINGS INTEREST GROUP:

PLANNING PROACTIVELY FOR FINAL YEAR OF LEASE. A TEAM BEGAN IN JUNE 2010 TO STUDY THE CONTINUED USE OF THE FORMER ST. MONICA SCHOOL AND SCHOOL HALL BUILDINGS. THE GROUP IS CONSULTING WITH THE ROCHESTER ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL TO SEE IF THERE IS A DESIRE TO LEASE THE BUILDINGS FOR AN OPTIONAL FOURTH YEAR. THE GROUP IS RESEARCHING OTHER OPTIONS, IF NEEDED, REGARDING PROPERTY STEWARDSHIP. SEE JOHN CURRAN IF YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN THIS GROUP.

2. TRANSPORTATION INTEREST GROUP:

THIS INTEREST GROUP IS RESEARCHING OPTIONS FOR PARISHIONERS NEEDING SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION TO CHURCH. IT WILL REPORT SOON ON PLANS. SEE CHARLENE WITKOWICZ.

3. VOTIVE CANDLE GROUP:

THIS GROUP IS RESEARCHING A VOTIVE CANDLE DISPLAY UNIT THAT MEETS FIRE SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS. IT WILL REPORT ITS FINDINGS SOON. CHARLENE WITKOWICZ IS THE CONTACT PERSON.

4. NARTHEX FURNISHING:

THIS PROCESS IS UNDERWAY. THE BULLETIN BOARDS AND AN ENCLOSED CABINET ARE BEING HAND-CRAFTED. SEE JOHN CURRAN FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

5. EXTERIOR SIGN:

RESEARCH IS UNDERWAY TO PURCHASE AN OUTDOOR SIGN FROM A LOCAL SUPPLIER THAT WILL DISPLAY INFORMATION EASILY AND READABLY. INPUT IS NEEDED REGARDING THE NEXT RENOVATION PHASE BEFORE THE UNIT IS SELECTED AND POSITIONED.

6. RENOVATION PHASE TWO PLANNING: *NEW*

(NOT YET UNDERWAY): THE PARISH WILL ASSEMBLE A GROUP TO LOOK AT THE CHURCH & RECTORY TASKS THAT WERE DELAYED DURING PHASE ONE. SEE JOHN CURRAN IF YOU'D LIKE TO PARTICIPATE.

"IDEA TO REALITY" PROCESS REVIEWED:

NEW ST. MONICA PARISH INNOVATED A PROCESS TO EMPOWER ITS MEMBERS TO TAKE LEADERSHIP ROLES. THE PROCESS INVOLVES ENCOURAGING MEMBERS TO SUGGEST IDEAS FOR PARISH ACTIVITIES AND NEW MINISTRIES.

THE IDEAS BECOME SUSTAINABLE BY MEANS OF A DOCUMENTED PLANNING PROCESS THAT HELPS SPELL OUT GOALS, LOGISTICAL NEEDS, FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND PERSONS WHO WILL CARRY OUT THE EFFORT.

THE IDEA TO REALITY DOCUMENT:

1. DESCRIBES THE ACTIVITY / EVENT / INITIATIVE;
2. HOW IT RELATES TO THE PARISH VISION & MISSION STATEMENT;
3. LISTS TIMETABLE AND BUDGETARY INFORMATION;
4. INDICATES LIKELY PARISH RESOURCES NEEDED AND
5. IDENTIFIES THE CORE PERSONS WHO WILL SUPPORT THE EFFORT FROM START TO COMPLETION .

A FACILITATION TEAM MEMBER SERVES AS A GUIDE TO THE "INTEREST GROUP" TO MOVE THE PROCESS FORWARD TO THE DECISION-MAKING STAGE INVOLVING THE PASTOR.

CAREFUL PLANNING AVOIDS CONFUSION AND MAKES AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY CLEAR.

A REVIEW OF THE PREVIOUS THREE YEARS OF PARISH ACTIVITIES IDENTIFIES OVER TWENTY-FIVE PARISHIONER INITIATIVES THAT HAVE USED THE *IDEA TO REALITY INTEREST GROUP APPROACH*. MOST OF THESE GROUPS SUCCEEDED IN THEIR GOALS AND WERE ABLE TO DISBAND WITHIN A RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.

THIS PARTICIPATORY APPROACH PROVED MOST SUCCESSFUL DURING THE RENOVATION PHASE WHEN FOCUSED AND COLLABORATIVE PLANNING CREATED SMOOTH TRANSITIONS. *INTEREST GROUPS ARE TASK DEFINED, NOT TIME-DEFINED.*

APPLYING THE PROCESS DURING THE SEPTEMBER PARISH MEETING:

AN UNFORTUNATE AND SENSELESS ACT OF VANDALISM OCCURRED IN THE ST. MONICA PARKING LOT INVOLVING DAMAGE TO SOME VEHICLES DURING MASS ON THE PRECEDING SATURDAY.

THIS BECOMES AN OPPORTUNITY TO PRACTICE THE "IDEA TO REALITY" PROCESS. FACILITATION TEAM MEMBER **CRAIG WHITE** IS GUIDING THE EFFORT TO DEVELOP A "**PARKING LOT SAFETY INTEREST GROUP**". TWO PARISHIONERS SIGNED UP TO JOIN HIM.

A RELATED EFFORT IS THE CREATION OF A "**RESTORATIVE JUSTICE INTEREST GROUP**" THAT WILL ADDRESS THE VANDALISM RESPONSE FROM A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE. THE TWO 9 YEAR-OLD BOYS

RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VANDALISM WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN IN A POSITIVE MANNER ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR BEHAVIOR. THEY WILL LISTEN TO HOW THEIR ACTIONS AFFECTED INNOCENT PERSONS. SIX PARISHIONERS INDICATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO JOIN THIS INTEREST GROUP. THE GROUP WILL WORK WITH PROFESSIONALS TRAINED IN THE PRINCIPLES OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT FT MEMBER BRENDA LYN BYNOE.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS SEGMENT:

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY:

HW: SOME OF THE SANCTUARY TABLE SURFACES HAVE WHITE TABLE CLOTHS WHILE OTHERS DO NOT. COULD WE POSSIBLY PROTECT ALL OF THE WOOD SURFACES WITH CLOTH COVERINGS?

DS: WHY IS AN ELECTRONIC EXTERIOR INFORMATIONAL SIGN BEING CONSIDERED?

IT WILL BE A "21ST CENTURY" MEANS TO DISPLAY INFORMATION EASILY DURING ALL WEATHER CONDITIONS INSTEAD OF THE TIME-CONSUMING AND LABOR-INTENSIVE WAY OF INSTALLING PLASTIC LETTERS MANUALLY.

LH AN ELECTRONIC SIGN WOULD BE EASIER TO MAINTAIN. ALLOWS FOR QUICK POSTING OF CHANGES.

KS & DS: THE NOISE LEVEL IN THE NARTHEX MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO CONDUCT A PARISH MEETING WHILE THE COMMUNITY TABLE REFRESHMENTS ARE BEING SERVED. PARISH MEETING ATTENDANCE DECREASES. PERHAPS THE COMMUNITY TABLE SHOULD TAKE A BREAK DURING THE WEEK WHEN THERE IS A PARISH MEETING.

JR: HOW FAR IN ADVANCE OF AN INTENDED DATE SHOULD A REQUEST FOR A MASS INTENTION BE MADE?

(THE PARISH OFFICE WILL CONTACT YOU WITH THE INFORMATION)

RC: THE HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES AT THE CHURCH PARKING LOT NEED FRESH PAINT STRIPING OR THE ADDITION OF MOUNTED SIGNS.

(THE REQUEST HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO THE BUILDINGS MANAGER AND THE BUSINESS MANAGER.)