

St. Bernard Church

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Issue 11

August 24, 2003

STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT



Steering Committee

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Arlene Gardiner
John Gibbons
Elizabeth McGrath
Walter Pannone
Raymond Vallee

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you especially for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and hold the promise for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight. Be present with us as we work together: make us responsive to your will and give to us a healthy pride in all we do that we may be good stewards of all things entrusted to us. May the prayers of our patron Bernard help us to keep in mind the wise counsel given long ago "whoever would climb to a lofty height must go by steps, not leaps."

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

THIS WEEK

The Steering Committee's Excellent Adventure occurred last Saturday. That was when the Steering Committee along with our architect, Michael Viveiros and armed with our boots and our bug spray ventured into the wilds of the back 24 acres of the Davis property. A huge thanks to Tom Sandham who cleared a *reallllly* long path through the dense brush. It must have taken him days to cut through those thick branches! In addition to giving us a great workout, the walk helped us get a feeling for the actual size of the land that we are so fortunate to have. There's a lot of land back there, but at this point we're not sure if we can use it all. As mentioned in previous issues, the soil tests are scheduled for the first week of September and those tests may provide us with more information. If necessary, additional engineering tests may be done to give us exact locations on which we can build.

On Monday evening the Committee met with Sister Jean Barry, principal of Our Lady of Mercy school, Henry Fiore, principal of Monsignor Clarke and parishioner Seve Hernandez, principal of St. Joseph's School in West Warwick. They spoke honestly about the impact a new St. Bernard's School would have on their schools realizing also that there does appear to be a need in South County for another Catholic school. Their enthusiasm for their schools and the importance of providing children with the opportunity for a Catholic education was impressive. In addition, they provided us with some guidance on what's needed in the classrooms of today. We also discussed issues regarding teachers, administrators, policy setting, tuition and costs. Both St. Joseph's and OLM are parish schools in parishes that do not have a parish center. Therefore the school building is in constant use for religious education and other functions. All of the schools have waiting lists especially in the younger grades demonstrating the presence of a continuing demand for parochial school education in the area.

Question for Sunday, August 24, 2003

In October 2001, the Ruotolo feasibility study showed us that parishioners prioritized the need for a school (as compared to the church, parish center and rectory) as either 1st or last, no in between. How do you feel now?

Please drop your response in the collection baskets or send an email to steering_committee@sbcwickford.org. Thanks for your response!