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STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT



Steering Committee

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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

LAST WEEK

While our memories were still fresh, the Committee met on August 26th with architect, Michael Viveiros to discuss the many churches, rectories and parish centers we visited this summer. From what we saw, there was no *one* design that we felt would fulfill all of our needs. However we did see design points that we liked. Since we have not finished tabulating your responses to the weekly questions, no final decisions have been made on any of these areas.

Some of the specific areas we seemed to agree on included:

The Cry Area – not necessarily a closed-in room, but a defined area, most likely near the entrance to the church, where parents could take disruptive children, but still be able to hear the priest, commentator and music.

Entrance or the foyer area to the Church – in addition to the cry area should have bathrooms, work closets and a durable tile floor.

Inside the Church – most in the group preferred the look and feel of a gathered seating space – not round, but not the long main aisle style either. St. Veronica's in Narragansett has a nice arrangement. A clear view of the altar with integrated seating for wheelchairs is also on our list. St. Luke's in Barrington has a number of seats which have a hinge so they can be easily lifted up to accommodate a wheelchair within the pew rather than out in the aisle. Weddings and funerals require a wide aisle and plenty of space in front of the altar. The altar should be easily visible. The tabernacle should be carefully placed to highlight its significance and there should be a special place to honor the Blessed Mother.

Exterior of the church – should fit in well in the neighborhood, with perhaps shingles and some stonework. There should be few, if any stairs, a landscaped parking lot and maybe a meditation garden.

Parish Center - requirements will depend on if we build a school. At a minimum we would need a good size meeting space, offices and a kitchen.

Question for Sunday, September 7, 2003

Do you know of any children (preK to 8th grade) whose parents would be interested in sending them to a new St. Bernard's School? What grades would they be in?

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

Reprint of Weekly Questions

While many parishioners had the opportunity to travel this summer, they missed the chance to respond to the questions posed in the Steering Committee bulletin insert each week. This week we are reprinting **July's** questions. If you did not respond previously, please send us an email at *steering_committee@sbcwickford.org*, or drop your responses at the Parish Center or in the collection basket.

The Steering Committee's e-mail address: steering_committee@sbcwickford.org Please make a note of it and keep sending your questions, thoughts and responses.

July 13th: Would you agree that a new St. Bernard's School (preK-8) would benefit the Parish and the community?

July 20th: Do you believe that a Cry Room is necessary and where should it be located; or are there other ways to offer assistance to parents during Mass?:

July 27th: What type of space would you like to see in the entrance to the church?

Once things have settled down with the start of the school year, the Committee is planning to meet with David Beau-doin, Secretary of Catholic Education, Spiritual Formation and Evangelization for the Diocese.

Note: You have the unique opportunity to incorporate your thoughts and ideas into the planning of the future of St. Bernard's. Please use this opportunity to make your opinion known. The Committee reviews all responses to each question. Thank you!